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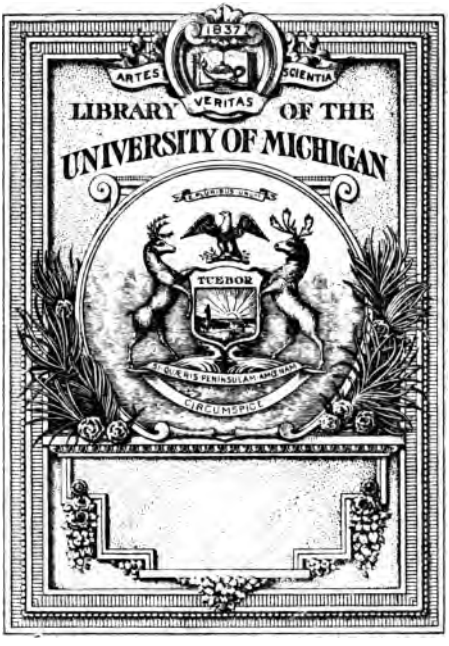
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REPORT

OF THE

COMMITTEE

OF THE

AFRICAN INSTITUTION,

Read to the General Meeting on the 15th July, 1807.

TOGETHER WITH THE

Rules and Regulations

WHICH WERE THEN ADOPTED FOR THE

GOVERNMENT OF THE SOCIETY.

LONDON: PRINTED BY WILLIAM PHILLIPS,
GEORGE YARD, LOMBARD STREET.

1807.

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On the Motion of Wilbraham Bootle, Esq.

Resolved,

That Subscriptions be now opened, on the plan recommended by the Committee, and that Subscribers be requested to affix their names to their Subscriptions.

On the Motion of the Right Hon. the Chancellor of the Exchequer,

Resolved,

That His Royal Highness the Duke of Gloucester be requested to honour the Institution, by accepting the office of President, in addition to that of Patron.

On the Motion of the Right Hon. Viscount Valentia,

Resolved,

That the Election of Vice-Presidents and of the Board of Directors be deferred till the next meeting of the Society; and that in the mean time the present Committee be con-

tinued, with the authority to exercise the various powers with which the Board of Directors is invested by the Rules and Regulations which have now been adopted.

On the Motion of the Right Hon. Lord Headley,

Resolved,

That the Committee be requested to print, for distribution, the substance of the Report which has this day been read, with such alterations and corrections as they may think proper, together with the Rules and Regulations which have been adopted, and a list of Subscribers.

On the Motion of the Right Hon. the Earl of Selkirk,

Resolved,

That the warmest Thanks of this Meeting be given to His Royal Highness the Duke of Gloucester, for his zealous and assiduous attention to the interests of this Society.

Subscriptions are received by the following Bankers, viz. *Messrs. Down, Thornton, Free & Down,* No. 1, Bartholomew Lane; *Messrs. Hoare, Barnett & Co.* No. 62, Lombard-street; *Messrs. Smith, Payne, & Smiths,* George Street, Mansion House; *Messrs. Hoares,* 37, Fleet Street; *Messrs. Drummonds,* Charing Cross; *Messrs. Ransom, Morland & Co.* Pall-Mall; by the Treasurer, *Henry Thornton, Esq.*; or by the Secretary, *Mr. Z. Macaulay,* 26, Birchin Lane; to whom communications relative to the Institution may be addressed.

List of the temporary Committee for Conducting the Affairs of the African Institution.

His Royal Highness the Duke of Gloucester,
Patron and President,

Earl Spencer	The Chancellor of the Exchequer
Earl Moira	
Earl Euston	Right Hon. T. Grenville
Earl Rosslyn	Right Hon. G. Canning
Lord Grenville	Right Hon. J. C. Villiers
Viscount Howick	Right Hon. Sir J. Newport
Viscount Valentia	Right Hon. J. Foster
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W. Wilberforce, Esq. M.P.

REPORT, &c.

A PLAN, which proposes to introduce the blessings of civilized society among a people sunk in ignorance and barbarism, and occupying no less than a fourth part of the habitable globe,* holds forth an object, the contemplation of which, it will be allowed, is sufficient to warm the coldest, and fill the amplest mind.

An attempt to recommend such a scheme of beneficence by considerations addressed to the feelings, seems wholly unnecessary; since the bare conception of the design must give birth to a more lively interest than any persuasions could produce.

* Africa is computed to contain 150 millions of inhabitants, but the interior is so little known that the estimate is purely conjectural.

But it is requisite, in order to obtain active support to any enterprize, that its object should not only be inviting, but rational, and capable of being accomplished.

Your Committee, therefore, in offering a few remarks on the general nature of this Institution, prior to a Report on the immediate subject of reference, (the Rules and Regulations proper for the constitution and government of the Society) have in view not to persuade, but to encourage; not to suggest motives, but to obviate difficulties; and particularly to remove the most specious objection to our design, despair of its success.

The vastness of the object proposed by the Institution, may raise in some minds the idea of a rash and visionary project; especially when contrasted with the apparent disparity of the means which are to be employed, the efforts of a voluntary association of private individuals in this country. But it should be remembered, that the most

striking changes have often been produced in the characters and fortunes of nations, by means apparently very inadequate. There have been critical opportunities, in which the combined efforts of a few private men, or even the energies of a single mind, have sufficed to effect great revolutions in the opinions, the manners, the laws, and civil condition of a whole people, nay even of a great portion of mankind.

It is true, that such changes have been more frequently of a pernicious than salutary kind; for their authors have rarely been actuated by benignant feelings, but in general by ambition, or some other vicious passion: nor can it be denied that it is more easy, in public as well as private undertakings, to disseminate evil than good. If, however, the polished nations of the earth, when they first emerged from barbarism, had possessed historians to record the causes of that change, we should probably

discover, in some cases, that the talents or virtues of an individual (like those of a Czar Peter, or an Alfred) had suddenly imparted a new character to the institutions and manners of his country; and, in others, that intelligent strangers from a more enlightened region of the earth had produced, by their information and their practical aid, the same benign effects. In the early traditions of Greece and Italy some traces of such sources of civilization may be found: and the benefactors of nations, who were said to have descended from the skies, and were honoured as gods, are reasonably supposed to have been no other than intelligent foreigners, who first brought the useful arts of their own countries to a rude and ignorant people. A similar origin has been ascribed to the civilization which was found in some kingdoms of South America, on their first discovery by the Spaniards. If the nations of the old world had their Cadmus and Saturn, Peru

also had her Mango Capac, who instructed her once barbarous people in agriculture and the liberal arts, and whose accidental arrival from some unknown region probably gave rise to the fable of his descent from the sun.

Conquest, it must be admitted, has been the harsh and more ordinary medium by which the blessings of civilization have been conveyed from one part of the world to another; but this has been because no other has often been attempted. Polished nations have commonly been too selfish to send the plow and the loom to any country, till they have first sent the sword and the sceptre.

Commerce, however, which, after the first introduction of civilization into any country, has contributed to its progressive improvement beyond any other cause, Christianity excepted, has rarely been first extended in any new direction by force, or by any grand and concurrent efforts. The peaceable en-

terprises of individuals, aided by encouragement less important than that which our institution may be able to impart, have often been sufficient to explore the resources, excite the industry, and call forth the commercial faculties of distant and uncivilized nations. Let it not be supposed then that our association is chargeable with aiming at ends too vast, or too difficult for human efforts to accomplish. If we propose any thing more arduous than has often been effected before, it must be because it is more easy to do good by accident than by design; from the impulse of selfish than of benevolent feelings.

The immense extent of the field before us ought indeed rather to animate than to damp our efforts; for in the communication of knowledge,—of such practical knowledge at least as is of universal interest, and within the reach of every capacity—the difficulty is chiefly found in the first stage of the process. Like a hardy exotic in a kindred soil, it may

be speedily propagated on the largest scale, when once brought to flourish on the smallest.—Every pupil soon becomes a teacher; every successful example adds to the number of imitators; and though the field of exertion be originally small, the ultimate benefit will be proportioned to the extent of the sphere through which the knowledge thus communicated may be at last diffused.

When it was discovered, a very few years ago, that there is among the secrets of nature a sure and simple, though wonderful preventive, of one of the most fatal and loathsome diseases to which the human frame is subject, it was a work of no small difficulty to establish the credit of the discovery, and bring it into use, even in this enlightened metropolis. Yet already the practice of vaccination is known to the most distant nations of the earth; and it is probable that there will soon be no civilized

people in the world, by whom it will not be generally adopted.

This example, in another view also, may afford us encouragement: for by what means has a discovery so important to mankind been so widely and speedily imparted to distant nations, but by the efforts of private benevolence, aided by a voluntary association of individuals, in this country? Prejudice and incredulity resisted its progress as stubbornly perhaps as they may resist improvement in Africa; and the secret, though known in a western county, might never have been heard of even in London, if its propagation, instead of being assisted by the active and combined endeavours of a great society, had been left to accident, or to the comparatively inefficient efforts of individual benevolence.

Was Dr. Jenner's discovery one, the value of which might be demonstrated by experi-

ment, and brought home to the senses, as well as to the self-love of mankind? The same may be said of those arts and that knowledge which we hope to send into Africa, and which, by giving a right impulse to industry, and some culture to the human mind, must produce benefits of a kind to be understood and felt even by rude barbarians.

Objections more specious, however, may perhaps be opposed to us than the extent of the good at which we aim, when contrasted with the apparent feebleness of our probable means.

The people amongst whom we would endeavour to introduce the blessings of civilized life are a race very distinct in bodily appearance from all others; and are represented by many, as not less distinguished from the rest of mankind by the inferiority of their intellectual powers, and by their moral depravity.

If he be accused of brutal stupidity by one of these prejudiced witnesses; another, or perhaps the same, taxes him with the most refined dissimulation, and the most ingenious methods of deceit. If the negroes are represented as base and cowardly; they are, in the same volume, exhibited as braving death in its most hideous forms, with more than human fortitude. Insensibility and excessive passion, apathy and enthusiasm, want of natural affection and a fond attachment to their friends, shipmates, and countrymen, are all ascribed to them by the same inconsistent pens. We are told, by almost every colonial writer, that severe coercion is necessary to quicken them to action; yet some of those authorities, and among them the most celebrated advocate of Negro slavery in France, ascribe to them an almost preternatural energy. After working for twenty-four hours without remission, they will, according to the last mentioned writer, voluntarily

travel two or three leagues, spend the whole night in dancing and revelling, and return by day-break to take their share in the most arduous labours of the crop, without any intermediate repose. They will, he assures us, pass an entire week without sleep, and yet go through their accustomed toil with their usual vigour. In short he describes them as possessing bodily qualities far superior to those of other men, and states it as a strong argument for effecting a counter revolution in St. Domingo, that if to such physical powers intellectual culture were added, the Negroes might conquer the world.*

But we might appeal also to other hostile testimony which is less inconsistent with itself; for some Colonial writers, amidst their zeal for slavery and the Slave Trade, have occasionally aspired to the praise of candour in regard to the moral character of the

* Barrè de St. Venant, p. 379—380.

Slaves, and have expressly repelled some of the accusations which have been adduced by other writers of the same party. The ingenuity of the Negroes is admitted or defended by one eminent authority, their gratitude by another, their parental and filial affection by a third, their humanity by a fourth, their docility and improvement under religious instruction, by all who have treated on this subject.

Your Committee are unwilling to swell their Report by extracts in proof of these remarks; but they beg to refer to Mr. Bryan Edwards, to M. Malouet, to Dr. Fermin, and to a highly intelligent work published in London in 1803, intitled, "Practical Rules for the management and medical treatment of Negro Slaves in the Sugar Colonies." The author has only designated himself as a Professional Planter, but the work is generally ascribed to the late Dr. Collins, of St. Vincent, a celebrated apologist of the Slave Trade.

Some positive praise has also been given to this injured race, in respect of which there is no contrariety of evidence. It is noticed for instance, by Mr. Edwards, and several other writers, that the old Negroes are universally treated by the young with singular tenderness and respect. Nor ought a trait like this to be deemed of small account, when we find it adduced by the first moralists of antiquity, as indicating an extraordinary degree of virtue.

If any consistency can be found among the apologists of Colonial slavery, in their charges against the Negroes, it is in ascribing to them the characteristic vice of falsehood. But this, like some other abject qualities, is uniformly the effect of private bondage; and we are so far from finding reason to believe that it peculiarly distinguishes the native African character, that there is good evidence of the very reverse. "One of the first lessons," (says Mr. Park in his travels)

" in which the Mandingo women instruct their children, is the practice of truth. The reader (he adds) will probably recollect the case of the unhappy mother, whose son was murdered by the Moorish banditti. Her only consolation in her utmost distress was, that the poor boy in the course of his blameless life had never told a lie."*

That Colonial slavery has generated most of those vices which are alleged in its excuse, was felt, and is distinctly admitted, by Mr. Edwards; and this is a fact which he was very competent to ascertain; for he had seen multitudes of newly imported Africans; had, as he himself informs us, many of them under his own management; and he appears to have taken pains to study their character.

It should be added that the vicious qualities of the Colonial Negro, as far as they really exist, are weeds which neither religious

* Park's Travels into the Interior of Africa, p. 264.

nor moral culture has been employed to pluck up. They are the growth, not merely of bondage, but of ignorance; and of ignorance, grosser perhaps than has ever existed elsewhere among the inhabitants of a civilized land: for it is not pretended that the West Indian Slave, from his birth or importation to his grave, receives from his master any education whatsoever, or possesses in general the means of acquiring any religious knowledge.

The charitable zeal of some religious societies in this country has indeed, of late years, supplied our Islands with a few Missionaries, by whom a small part of the Slaves have been instructed in the elements of Christianity, and provided with some means of public worship. And wherever this has been the case, a striking improvement of morals has followed. It has been publickly admitted by the Planters, and even by the legislative assemblies, of the Leeward Islands,

where alone the experiment has been fairly made, that the vices of their Slaves have disappeared, in proportion as they have been enabled to understand, and induced to embrace, the Christian religion.

If therefore the vices in question were inherent in the African character, and not the effects of oppression, still they would present no just ground of discouragement, but rather a new motive for perseverance: for they would be evils which our charitable aid might contribute to remove.

It is true that the plan of this institution does not embrace the propagation of Christianity, by any efforts of our own. That blessing may be best communicated to Africa by the societies which are already engaged in religious missions, or may hereafter embark in them. But in improving the temporal condition of the Natives, we shall greatly facilitate their conversion, and without interfering with any of the missions,

shall indirectly, and in a variety of ways, be serviceable to them all.

The moral quality most obviously important to our views, and in which Africans in their native country are alleged to be grossly deficient, is *industry;* and, doubtless, if we were to judge by what appears on the African *Coast* alone, and without any allowance for the necessary effects of the Slave Trade, the charge would be specious.

Indolence, it must be admitted, is a common characteristic of all uncivilized people; and therefore if this imputation, supposing it true, were a conclusive argument against attempting to convey to Africa those useful arts which cannot subsist without labour, it would apply to every similar attempt in every part of the globe. It would be conclusive against the endeavour at any time or place, or in any mode, to improve the condition of any part of our species. Nay, it would become an inexplicable paradox

how men who were once in a barbarous state, like our ancestors, should ever have been raised from it. But indolence is a disease which it is the business of civilization to cure. The motives and the means of industry must be supplied, before men can begin to be industrious. This argument, therefore, against our present undertaking is like making it an objection to the visit of a physician, that the patient is sick.

Waving for a while that too adequate explanation of the indolence observable on the coast, which the long prevalence of the Slave-Trade furnishes, it may still be asked what room there is for the notion, that it is greater, or less remediable, than the same bad quality in other countries, where its correction is matter of recent history, or contemporary example? Perhaps even within his Majesty's European dominions, in Ireland, or the Highlands of Scotland, cases might be pointed out of equal indolence, proceeding

from the same obvious causes, want of knowledge, want of means, and want of excitement to be industrious.

In the Northern parts of Europe we are told, by intelligent travellers, of deserts turned into gardens, and slothful savages into husbandmen and artizans, within our own days; and this by the mere efforts of individual landholders. Their only means, it is added, were such necessary instruction to their tenants or bondmen, and such slight but judicious encouragements, as their ancestors had been too selfish or too unreflecting to bestow.

But if we look to North America, there, at least, we shall find a people, to whom might have been speciously ascribed, even at a very recent period, invincible sloth, and irreclaimable vagrancy of manners. We have been long taught to regard the North American Indian as so strongly addicted to his native habits, and so averse to labour,

as to be absolutely incorrigible by precept, by example, or even by his own experience of the blessings of civilization, when brought for a while to taste them. But some well-directed efforts of that truly respectable body of Christians, the Quakers, have at length vindicated the Indian character from this reproach, and shewn that their long-continued barbarism has, since they were placed within the reach of Europeans, been chargeable less on their own indolence or prejudices, than on those of their civilized neighbours.

By methods which cannot now be detailed, but which may well merit future attention, several tribes of Indians bordering on the United States have been brought to exchange their hunting occupations for an agricultural life, to renounce many of the vices with which they were before chargeable, and even that to which they had been excessively addicted, and which it has been

deemed most difficult to give up, the immoderate use of spirituous liquors; and to learn several of those useful arts to which they had before been utter strangers.

The experience of several years has already shewn, that this is no transient reformation. Instead of depending on the chace for a precarious subsistence, these Indians now cultivate extensive corn-fields, and raise herds of cattle. Instead of their miserable huts, they are now possessed of neat and commodious dwellings. Plenty has succeeded to want; sobriety to drunkenness; and regularity to disorder. The enjoyments and feelings of family life have begun at once to reward and to secure these improvements. The females are released from that unnatural share of toil to which they were formerly subjected, and begin to take their proper station:—they are advancing in those arts of domestic industry in which they are best employed, and though not less active

or useful than before, are no longer disabled, from rearing their offspring by severity of labour and the hardships of a vagrant life. It therefore seems scarcely necessary to state, that population is already on the increase.*

Your Committee has the pleasure to add, that the government of the United States, convinced by experience of the value of this reformation, has lately granted a considerable sum from the public purse for its further extension; and the application of this aid has been wisely committed to the same benevolent society which has so judiciously led the way in this interesting work. Can there be a more striking proof that such enterprizes as our own are not impracticable; and that private associations, founded on a benevolent principle, are the best instruments in the prosecution of them?

If, notwithstanding the civilization of the

* See Accounts of two attempts towards the Civilization of some Indian natives. Phillips.

Indians, further difficulties should be raised on the ground of the supposed indolence and indocility of the Negroes; some fair evidence ought to be produced of the existence of those bad qualities, except when there is no adequate motive, or reasonable excitement to industry.

It has indeed been imputed to them, that, when in a state of freedom in our Colonies, they are never known to work in the field or in any other laborious occupation. This fact has been repeatedly adduced as an argument for the necessity of Slavery and the Slave-Trade: but the argument is quite fallacious; and can impose on those only who are utterly unacquainted with colonial affairs. The truth is, that the free Negroes and Mulattoes in the West Indies do not often work in husbandry or other coarse kinds of labour, because such occupations, being the ordinary business of Slaves, are not only disreputable, but far less profitable than

others, in which every free workman may find full employment. There no Negro obtains his freedom but by means of faculties superior to that of throwing the hoe, or carrying a burthen; and hardly any Negro, born to freedom, is uninstructed in some trade or profession far more lucrative than ordinary labour, unless, which rarely happens, he is rich enough to live without any exertion of his own industry. The argument therefore is just as fair, as if the indolence of Englishmen were to be inferred from the fact, that our gentry and citizens do not follow the plough.

As to the indolence which is seen on the Coast of Africa, the Slave Trade is its obvious cause. How can it be expected that men should addict themselves to the arts of agriculture and commerce, whilst the labourers in both are themselves the great articles of trade, and form the chief exports of the country? What adequate motive can be found for

toiling to improve their domestic comforts, or their possessions, by men who are in constant danger of being hurried into perpetual exile?

Security of person and property must ever prepare the way for advances in the gainful arts of industry; and after all, these are rarely cultivated in a high degree; without the stimulus of that necessity which an increasing population creates. There could be no surer expedient to subdue the active spirit of mankind, and to perpetuate their indolence and barbarism, than a trade which at once thins the population of a country, and breaks down every barrier of private right or personal safety.

It is needless to take into account the many vices adverse to industry which are generated by this traffic: for it is enough to keep men indolent that no fruit of their labour can be secure to them for a moment.

That the indolence of the Africans in their

native land is by no means an incurable defect, might however be shewn by other and positive arguments. We learn from all those travellers who have lately explored the interior of Africa, that there already exists, in districts remote from the coast, a considerable degree of industry; and that no small progress has been made in several of the useful arts. It is also observable, that though these gentlemen travelled in various directions, and from points of that continent widely remote from each other, they all found the same striking contrast between the interior and the coast.

There is reason therefore to conclude, that the indolence and barbarism of the Africans universally diminish as you recede from the coast towards the centre: or in other words as their distance from the immediate sphere of European commerce is encreased. It may be true that the Slave Trade pervades, in some degree, the whole continent:

but its activity and extent are inversely as the distance from the sea, while industry and civilization are found to prevail in an opposite ratio. The conclusion is not less important, than it is opprobrious to the European character.

Your Committee must again abstain from lengthening their Report by many extracts in proof of the facts alleged; but refer generally to the travels of Mr. Park, Mr. Barrow, and Mr. Golbery. They refer also to Captain Beaver for much conclusive evidence as to the disposition of the natives of Africa to work, when properly encouraged.

The following extracts from Mr. Park, however, are so comprehensive and direct, that they seem to merit insertion. "The Negroes in general," says Mr. Park, "and the Mandingoes in particular are considered by the whites on the coast as an indolent and inactive people; I think, without reason. The nature of the climate is, indeed, unfa-

vourable to great exertion; but surely a people cannot justly be denominated habitually indolent, whose wants are supplied, not by the spontaneous productions of nature, but by their own exertions. Few people work harder, when occasion requires, than the Mandingoes; but not having many opportunities of turning to advantage the superfluous produce of their labour, they are content with cultivating as much ground only, as is necessary for their own support. The labours of the field give them pretty full employment during the rains: and in the dry season, the people who live in the vicinity of large rivers, employ themselves chiefly in fishing." *

He adds that while the men are thus occupied, the women are very diligent in manufacturing cotton cloth, the quality of which he describes as very good, and their manner of dyeing it as excellent.

*Travels in Africa, Chap. xxi.

He afterwards enumerates manufactories of leather, iron, and other commodities, in which the Negroes have arrived at considerable skill, though with very imperfect implements.

But your Committee will add one more extract from the same writer, which furnishes strong matter of excitement to such benevolent attempts as we have associated to recommend and promote.

"It appears" (observes Mr. Park in summing up his account of the trade of Africa) "that slaves, gold, and ivory, together with the few articles enumerated in the beginning of my work, viz. bees-wax and honey, hides, gums, and dye woods, constitute the whole catalogue of exportable commodities. Other productions, however, have been incidentally noticed as the growth of Africa, such as grain of different kinds, tobacco, indigo, cotton wool, and perhaps a few others; but of all these (which can only be obtained by cultivation and labour) the natives raise

sufficient only for their own immediate use; nor, under the present system of their laws, manners, trade, and government, can any thing farther be expected from them. It cannot, however, admit of a doubt, that all the rich and valuable productions, both of the East and West Indies, might easily be naturalized and brought to the utmost perfection in the tropical parts of this immense continent. *Nothing is wanting to this end but example to enlighten the minds of the natives; and instruction to enable them to direct their industry to proper objects.* It was not possible for me to behold the wonderful fertility of the soil, the vast herds of cattle, proper both for labour and food, and a variety of other circumstances favourable to colonization and agriculture; and reflect, withal, on the means which presented themselves of a vast inland navigation; without lamenting, that a country, so abundantly gifted and favoured by nature,

should remain in its present savage and neglected state. Much more did I lament, that a people, *of manners and dispositions so gentle and benevolent,* should either be left, as they now are, immersed in the gross and uncomfortable blindness of pagan superstition, or permitted to become converts to a system of bigotry and fanaticism: which, without enlightening the mind, often debases the heart."*

Your Committee will now advert to another source of prejudice against our design, which is too important to be omitted. It is frequently alleged and believed, that an experiment to spread civilization in Africa has already been fairly made, and has completely failed, in the case of the Colony of Sierra Leone. But the assertion is untrue in both its parts. The experiment has not been fairly made; and as far as any attempts to lay a basis for the future civilization of Africa by

* Parke's Travels, Chap. xxiii.

means of that Colony have really been made, they have not been unsuccessful.

It is not the intention of your Committee to enter on a full explanation of the original plan of the Sierra Leone Company, of the unforeseen and calamitous events which opposed its successful execution, of the objects which have nevertheless been attained by it, or of the circumstances which have lately induced the Company to surrender to his Majesty the territory which they had acquired and settled, together with the public property and civil authorities which they possessed. Full satisfaction on all these points may be obtained from the printed Reports of the Company, and other public documents.

But your Committee will venture to affirm, that whatever disappointment the Proprietors of the Sierra Leone Company may have experienced, there is nothing in the history of that Company of a kind to dis-

courage the efforts of the African Institution. If commercial gains were expected by any of the Proprietors, their object has certainly been lost: even the capital itself has been sunk without having yielded any interest to the subscribers. But these losses have not been incurred through an attempt to civilize Africa by means like those which this Institution proposes to employ.—It is no part of our plan to purchase territory in Africa, to found a colony, or even to carry on commerce.

Neither has the bad success of this Company arisen from any causes which evince an intractability in the African character, or any other fixed obstacle to our designs. It is sufficiently accounted for by the failure of those just expectations which led to its formation. This Company was instituted in 1791, when the Abolition of the Slave Trade, now at length happily accomplished, was not without reason regarded as an event near at

hand. The Company calculated on being delivered from the rivalship of that traffic, almost as soon as a beneficial substitute for it could be offered to Africa: instead of which, that bane of industry and innocent commerce was permitted to outlive their means of competition with it. They even in vain solicited Parliament to banish it from that almost depopulated region of Africa, in which their settlement was formed. English Slave Traders were permitted to the last to frequent the same coast, to trade even in the river of Sierra Leone, and by their offers of European goods which they furnish upon credit, to preserve their connection and influence with the neighbouring chiefs. Those unfortunate Africans were therefore easily diverted from improvements, to which the Sierra Leone Company would have led them; and they were at length even persuaded to regard with jealousy and ill-will the benevolent strangers whom they at first received with favour.

The unprecedented political events which soon followed the establishment of the Company might also alone account for its ill fortune. No one could have foreseen in 1791 that a maritime war would so soon have enlarged the expences, and checked the growth of the infant colony; much less that it would, like the Slave Trade, have continued its ruinous opposition during fourteen years.* Sierra Leone, be it remembered, was exposed to all the calamities and disadvantages of war, during the whole term of its occupation by the Company, except for an interval too short to afford any experience of its capacities in time of peace.

It ought not however to be dissembled that in the original design itself there was much improvidence, and such as even under

* It will be remembered that in May, 1792. Mr. PITT declared, that though it was impossible to speak with certainty on such a subject, there perhaps had never been a period in the history of this country when we might look with more confidence to the continuance of peace.

less inauspicious circumstances might have defeated its object.

In attempting to found a new Colony, which, if successful, was to give to this country great commercial advantages, the Company took upon itself the whole charge of the civil government, of the public works, and of the military defence of the settlement. At the same time no part of the possible profits was secured exclusively to itself. If the richest channels of commerce had been eventually opened at Sierra Leone, every one of his Majesty's subjects would have had the same right to trade there as the Company or its members. No monopoly, no commercial privilege, was obtained or asked.

In the case that has arisen, the want of such a consideration for the liberal undertaking of the Company, may have been of little importance to its interests: but that undertaking was without any precedent in modern times, and its singular liberality

might alone furnish an adequate reason for its failure.

In no other part of the world, since the value of colonial commerce and the expence of colonial establishments have been known, have men associated to settle in an uncivilized country upon terms like these. The mother country, sure of reaping the fruits of their success, has commonly undertaken the charge of their government and protection; and it may be added that this charge has borne no small proportion to the early value of even the most prosperous Colony.

Let, for instance, an enquiry be made, what was the charge of civil government, what the cost of fortifications, of military garrisons, and of the various other public services connected with the settlement of Dominica and St. Vincent, and it would probably appear that more than the whole amount of the capital of the Sierra Leone Company was

sunk by the public in each of those islands, after their cession by France in 1763, before they were made in any degree valuable to this country. But in Sierra Leone, all these expences were borne by the Company, till it could defray them no longer; and when the Colony was totally laid waste in the last war by invasion, the Company sustained the whole cost of its restitution. The assistance since received from Parliament has come too late to save the stock of the Proprietors, though it may possibly be the source of much future benefit to the nation.

When these circumstances are considered, even if we admit that the undertaking of the Company, regarded as a mere commercial enterprise, has failed, we may yet safely affirm that its failure has been less discouraging than that of the first settlers in the most valuable of our colonial possessions. It is notorious that, in the ceded islands before adverted to, though now, or lately,

in a state of high prosperity, almost every private capital, that was at first embarked in their cultivation, was lost to the adventurers. So extensive was the ruin that the very easy purchase money of lands reserved to the government, though forming the first lien upon them, remained for the most part unpaid; and Mr. Edwards questions whether a shilling of the nominal sales ever found its way into the treasury.

This is, in truth, from known causes, the ordinary case with new Colonies. It has been proverbial that the first settlers generally fail, though their successors rise on their ruins: and if such is the fate of adventurers in the fertile, well known, and well defended field of our own Sugar Colonies, where they have few or no public establishments to maintain; it would surely be unjust to regard the losses of the Sierra Leone Company, under the peculiar circumstances which have been noticed, as a proof that coloniza-

tion in Africa can never be carried on to advantage.

Your Committee however would again remark, that supposing such an opinion to be well founded, it has no relevancy to the objects of the African Institution; for we mean not to colonize in Africa, or to trade there on our own account, but only to assist and give a right direction to the enterprize of others, and to excite the industry of the natives of that continent. And in these respects, the experience of the Sierra Leone Company presents to us nothing but encouragement. The possibility of introducing agriculture, innocent commerce, and other means of civilization into Africa, if it could reasonably have been doubted before, is established by what that Company has actually effected, notwithstanding what it has failed to accomplish. It has shewn that not only provisions, but the various articles of export which we now bring from the West Indies, may be

raised on the African coast. It has demonstrated that Negroes in a state of freedom may be induced to labour in the field. It has proved that the Native Chiefs may be made to understand such views as our Institution wishes to impress upon them. And above all it has shewn, that the grand obstacle to their heartily embracing those views has been the continuance of the Slave Trade.

The Colony of Sierra Leone can also attest, that free Negroes are capable of being governed by mild laws, and require neither whips nor chains to inforce their submission to civil authority. If a spirit of insubordination appeared for a time in that Colony, it was under circumstances which would in more polished societies have produced much stronger effects. The government was long destitute even of any lawful authority to punish crimes, and never possessed a military force which could overawe the turbulent. Yet if the course of events at Sierra

Leone be compared with the conduct of the first European settlers in the Antilles and on the American continent, whether English, French, or Spaniards, the result will be highly advantageous to the African character.

Nor has the Sierra Leone Company furnished us with matter of encouragement alone, but also with highly important means for the execution of our purposes. In their Colony, now about to be taken under the immediate care of Government, there is a basis upon which we may proceed at once to build. In that centrical part of the great African Continent, schools may be maintained, useful arts may be taught, and an emporium of commerce be established, by those whom our patronage may animate, or our information enable, to engage in such undertakings. There, native agents may be found, and the African languages acquired. From thence, travellers may diverge on their journeys of discovery, and there the scattered rays of

information from the interior may be collected. Nor is it a small advance towards our ultimate purpose to have a secure and convenient station already provided on the Coast, with copious means both of defence and subsistence.

But a still higher advantage, derived from the labours of the Sierra Leone Company is, that the principles upon which we proceed, and the objects which we aim to accomplish, will not, in that important part of Africa, excite either surprize or distrust.

The greatest of all obstacles perhaps to the civilization of the natives of Africa by European means, would be the diffidence in our intentions which they might reasonably entertain. A poor negro might well conceive that a white man could have no other design, in courting his acquaintance, than to make a slave of him, and carry him from the coast. But the experience of fifteen years has now convinced the inhabitants of at least that part

of the Continent which is in the neighbourhood of Sierra Leone, that benevolence and good faith may really reside under a white complexion; that there are Englishmen who abhor the Slave Trade, and who, far from kidnapping the merchant or labourer who puts himself in their power, desire nothing but his improvement and happiness.

Nor can it be supposed that the knowledge of this surprizing fact is confined to the immediate vicinity of Sierra Leone. Its novelty has no doubt caused it to be known in more distant countries; so that Englishmen who may now solicit a commercial intercourse, even with a people of a country considerably remote from that settlement, may gain credit for their real purpose, and not be suspected of meditating violence and fraud under the mask of fair professions.

It is probable that no experience, much short of that term which has elapsed since the settlement of Sierra Leone, would have

sufficed to produce this consequence; and the progress of conviction may have been aided even by the perseverance of the Company under its misfortunes.

Your Committee, when it adds this last important advantage to the rest, is inclined to hope, that the losses of the Company may yet be largely compensated to the feelings of the Proprietors, by the permanent good effects of their labours. They have laid, it may be hoped, a deep and necessary foundation, which the wisdom of Government and Parliament will preserve, and on which, when the Slave Trade ceases, the benevolence and the commercial industry of individuals will find it easy to build.

The only remaining objection which your Committee can anticipate, is the seeming inadequacy of the means which we can expect to possess and employ.

As we neither propose to colonize, nor to trade on our own account, how, it may be

asked, can we materially contribute to the civilization of Africa?

We answer, by the same means, in part, which are found necessary or useful for the promotion of agriculture, and for the encouragement of useful arts, or other patriotic and benevolent improvements, even in this enlightened country. We shall endeavour indeed to diffuse knowledge and to excite industry in Africa, by methods adapted to the peculiar situation and manners of the inhabitants. We trust to be able in various ways to promote an acquaintance with letters, and with the agricultural and mechanical arts, on different parts of the coast. We hope also to find enterprizing and intelligent men, who will explore the interior, not merely to gratify curiosity, but to obtain and disseminate useful knowledge, and to open sources of future intercourse. But information must also be diffused, and the spirit of commercial enterprize excited at home, in order that

individuals may be prompted by self-interest to aid us in the most effectual manner. And why, it may reasonably be asked, should the efforts of a respectable association be less efficacious in this part of our plan, than in other cases of a similar kind? If even in Great Britain, we have societies to suggest, patronize, and recommend improvements in agriculture; to foster the arts and sciences; to encourage our fisheries; and to promote other national objects; why should not a society to encourage African agriculture and African commerce, be equally useful and necessary?

What are the means employed by those various societies which we cannot with propriety adopt? To collect and circulate information respecting the commercial faculties of Africa, for instance, cannot be less conducive to the advancement of commerce with that country, than the publication of agricultural intelligence or of useful discoveries is to the im-

provement of our English husbandry, arts, and manufactures: and medals or honorary bounties may excite a competition in the importation from Africa of gum, ivory, dye-woods, indigo, or cotton, as well as in the planting of oaks, the catching of fish, or the breeding of cattle.

The utility of such a society is likely to be peculiarly great in the present case, on account of those very misapprehensions which your Committee have endeavoured to obviate.

When prejudice represents any new attempt as chimerical and extravagant, the enterprise of individuals may be unreasonably checked by the dread of ridicule or censure. Now what is more likely to remove this probable obstacle to experiments of the kind that have been alluded to, than the sanction and countenance of a numerous and highly respectable society, comprising in its body some of the most exalted characters in the kingdom?

Your Committee however will not attempt to enumerate the various ways in which our Institution may best promote the great ends for which it is formed. To obviate objections, a few of them have been instanced; but the extent and specific nature of our practical measures must be matter of future and deliberate discussion, by those whom the society may appoint to manage its affairs: and they must obviously in part depend on the extent of those pecuniary funds which we may be able to acquire.

Your Committee, having thus endeavoured to do away such objections as might prejudice our infant Institution, think it necessary to advert to only one argument of a positive kind in its favour, and that is the peculiar advantages for such an undertaking which the present moment affords.

The Slave Trade, among the innumerable evils of which it was the proximate or remote cause, produced, it must be allowed,

the effect of exciting, to a certain degree, a commercial spirit, and a taste for the produce and manufactures of distant countries, in the inhabitants of Africa. The British part of this Trade has at length been abolished, and will shortly terminate upon the Coast. That which has been carried on by America will cease about the same time. Denmark has also extricated herself from the guilt and disgrace of this commerce. France, Spain, and Holland are effectually precluded by the war from taking any share in it; and no other European nation, Portugal excepted, has ever been engaged in carrying it on. After the close of the present year, therefore, the Portugueze Slave Trade alone will remain to oppose or obstruct any efforts which may be made for the improvement of Africa. The privations to which the inhabitants of that Continent will thus be subjected are of themselves calculated to give a great impulse to their en-

terprize and exertion; and there is good reason to hope that many of the more intelligent chiefs will anxiously avail themselves of any practicable means which may be presented to them, for obtaining those European articles to which they have been hitherto accustomed. At such a moment, how much may be effected by an Institution prepared to furnish, what that intelligent traveller, Mr. Parke, states to be alone wanting to the improvement of this quarter of the globe; "example to enlighten the minds of the natives, and instruction to enable them to direct their industry to proper objects?"

Nor ought we to overlook the benefits which this country is likely to derive from such a developement of the faculties of the African Continent. While that gigantic power at the feet of which the Continent of Europe now lies prostrate, is employing his utmost efforts to prevent our commerce from flowing in its ancient channels, surely it be-

comes us to cherish every reasonable prospect of finding other outlets. We have achieved a great and splendid act of national justice in abolishing the Slave Trade. The chain which bound Africa to the dust, and prevented the success of every effort that was made to raise her, is now broken. Let our benevolence interpose to repair the ruin and degradation which we have contributed to bring upon her, and to teach her the use of her liberated faculties; and we may soon discover, by our own happy experience, that in exercising justice and benevolence towards her, whatever may be the apparent sacrifice, we have only been laying a more solid foundation for the enlargement of our own national prosperity.

The Committee will now proceed to submit to the Meeting the plan which seems to them best adapted for the interior Constitution and Government of the Society. To this they have deemed it proper to prefix a Sum-

mary of the grand objects, to promote which we have associated, as declared at the last General Meeting; with some practical suggestions, as to the general nature of those means which it may be expedient to employ.

Printed by W. Phillips, George Yard, Lombard Street.

SECOND

REPORT

OF THE

COMMITTEE

OF THE

AFRICAN INSTITUTION,

Read at the ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING,

on the 25th of March, 1808.

TO WHICH IS ADDED

A LIST OF SUBSCRIBERS.

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N. B. The First Report of the Institution, containing a full exposition of its design, and a copy of the Laws and Regulations adopted for its government, may be obtained from Mr. CRISP, as above, or from J. HATCHARD, 190, Piccadilly.

ADVERTISEMENT.

SINCE the following Report was made to the Subscribers, some Resolutions have been adopted by the Board of Directors, to which it is important to give early publicity. They are as follows, viz.

RESOLVED,

That it appears expedient to encourage and promote the study of the native languages of Africa, by the Europeans and others resident at Sierra Leone.

That, with that view, proper persons be engaged to teach the Arabic and Susoo languages at that Colony.*

That the Governor and Council, the Chief Judge, the Mayor or other principal municipal officer, and the Chaplain of the Colony, for the time being, be requested to draw up the rules and regulations under which these teachers shall act, and by which their pupils shall be governed, subject to the approbation of the Board of Directors at home; and also to institute periodical examinations, and to distribute medals or other honorary rewards, in cases of extraordinary proficiency;

* See Appendix F.

transmitting from time to time an account of the state of the Seminary, and of the result of such examinations, to this country.

That the same persons be requested to institute similar examinations, and to distribute similar rewards, for proficiency in the English language, at the seminary which has been formed at Sierra Leone, at the Society's expence, for the instruction of native youth.

The Board of Directors have also Resolved,

That the following premiums be proposed, with a view to encourage, in Africa, the cultivation of exportable produce, viz.

1. To the person who shall first import into this country the largest quantity, not less than a ton, of cotton wool, the produce of the Western coast of Africa, and which shall be pronounced by competent judges to be fit for the English market, a piece of plate of the value of fifty guineas, or the same sum in money, at the option of the claimant.

2. To the person who shall first import into this country the greatest quantity of manufactured indigo, not less than one hundred weight, the produce of the Western coast of Africa, in a marketable state, a piece of plate of the value of fifty guineas, or the same sum in money, at the option of the claimant.

3. To the person who shall first import into this country the largest quantity, not less than ten tons, of white rice, the produce of the Western coast of Africa, in a clean and marketable state, a piece of plate of the value of fifty guineas, or the same sum in money, at the option of the claimant.

N. B. A certificate must be produced by the person claiming the reward, in any of the above cases, signed by the governor or presiding officer of the settlement at which the articles shall have been shipped, certifying that they are the produce of the Western Coast of Africa, and specifying, if possible, the place of their growth.

4. To the person who, before the first of January, 1810, shall plant, within the Colony of Sierra Leone, the greatest number of acres, not less than ten, with coffee plants, agreeably to the annexed regulations, a piece of plate of the value of fifty guineas, or the same sum in money, at the option of the claimants.

The regulations are, that the coffee shall be of that kind, now growing at Sierra Leone, which is deemed the best for the European market; that it shall be planted on new ground; that the plants shall be eight feet apart; and that they shall be kept clean and free from weeds. A certificate to that effect must be produced from the governor or presiding officer of the settlement.

REPORT, &c.

THE Report made by the Committee, on the 15th of July last, contained a general view of the objects proposed by the Institution, with an answer to some popular objections that had been urged against the practicability of its plans. This Report has been printed, and largely circulated, both in London and in every part of the united kingdom, and, as the Committee have reason to believe, has produced, wherever it has been circulated, an impression in favour of the Institution: And if the funds of the Society have not increased in proportion to its apparent popularity, this appears to have arisen from its not having been sufficiently known that Subscriptions would be immediately wanted, rather than from any other cause. The Committee cannot but entertain a confident persuasion, that the necessary support will not be withheld, if the friends of the Institution shall make it be understood in their several

circles, that farther pecuniary assistance is required, in order to carry its benevolent purposes into effect.

The first care of the Committee has been to open a correspondence with such persons in Africa as were likely to be useful in promoting the Society's views. The persons to whom they have written are Mr. Ludlam, the Governor of Sierra Leone, and Mr. Torane, the Governor of Cape Coast Castle.

The latter gentleman, Mr. Torane, having shewn a desire to be instrumental in introducing, into Africa, the cultivation of exportable produce, they acquainted him with the nature and design of the Institution, and expressed their desire to aid his efforts. They requested at the same time a communication of such remarks, as a perusal of their Report might suggest to him, together with any particulars which he might deem to be important, respecting the state and capacities of the African Continent, and the condition of its inhabitants.

To the Governor of Sierra Leone they wrote much more at large, as Sierra Leone appeared to them the place where their efforts, for the improvement of Africa, might most advantageously commence, and as, from the knowledge which several of their members had of Mr. Ludlam, they were led to place no small reliance as well on that gentleman's judgment and local information, as on

his cordial attachment to the cause of African civilization.

They directed Mr. Ludlam's attention, in the first instance, to the important object of giving full effect to the act for abolishing the Slave Trade, requesting to be informed, from time to time, of the actual state of that trade, (whether British or Foreign) on the Coast; of the degree in which the abolition laws of Great Britain, and of other nations, are effectual; and, if ineffectual, by what means and under what pretences they are evaded; and also what steps may be advantageously taken to prevent such evasions.

The Committee, however, were aware, that even the complete prevention of the export of Slaves from the Coast, might produce little immediate effect in civilizing Africa, unless something could be done to counteract those pernicious habits which the Slave Trade had nourished, and particularly to convince the native Chiefs how essential it is to the prosperity of their country, that measures should be immediately adopted for insuring to their subjects the safe enjoyment of person and property. On this subject they transmitted to Mr. Ludlam some suggestions with which they had been favoured, and on which they requested his deliberate opinion.*

* See Appendix A.

The Committee directed Mr. Ludlam's attention to various other points, such as the best means of setting on foot journies of discovery, of promoting agriculture, of cultivating the friendship and confidence of the native powers, and of producing among them a spirit of union and harmony. And besides requesting him to furnish the Committee with all the information in his power, respecting the natural productions of Africa, its agricultural and commercial faculties, and the moral intellectual and political condition of its inhabitants, they particularly urged him, with a view to the success and stability of the Colony of Sierra Leone, to employ the lights, which an experience of upwards of ten years had afforded him, in pointing out, with precision and in detail, the system of policy which appeared to him best suited to the circumstance of the Colony, in regard to its interior management, and its relations with the African Chiefs; and in regard also to the promotion of civilization, both within the Colony, and, by means of the Colony, among the surrounding natives.

The Committee, at the same time, empowered Mr. Ludlam to erect a School at Sierra Leone, under the patronage and at the expence of the Institution, the object of which should be not merely to teach reading and writing, but to combine with these elementary branches of knowledge, instruction in agriculture and other useful arts. It was

suggested, that to the School should be annexed a small farm, which might be cultivated, either wholly or in part, by the labour of the scholars; and where they might be taught to raise, and prepare for market, articles of exportable produce, as well as to rear cattle and cultivate provisions. The state of the Society's funds obliged the Committee to direct, that this Seminary should be begun on a small scale, (though they wished it to be formed on a plan which should admit of its indefinite extension); and that, until their funds would allow of its enlargement, care should be taken that the youths, selected for education, should be of such a rank as would give them influence over their countrymen in after life.

The Committee were encouraged to appropriate to this object a large proportion of their present funds, by the information received from Sierra Leone, that several of the African youths, who had been educated in England by the Sierra Leone Company, were filling offices of trust in the Colony with credit to themselves and satisfaction to their employers.

The Committee having learnt that there are now in this country two African youths, about the age of ninteteen or twenty, who have been enjoying, by means of the Sierra Leone Company, the benefits of education for the last six or seven years, and that it was intended they should return in no long

time to Africa; resolved to take upon themselves the expence of having them fully initiated in Dr. Bell's System of Education. Measures are now taking with this view, and the Committee trust that they ſhall be able, in no long time, to transplant to Africa this cheap and expeditious method of instruction, a boon which may be productive of incalculable benefits to the inhabitants of that Continent.

The Committee have been of opinion, that the cultivation of the African soil, and a trade in the produce of that country, might be encouraged by the distribution of medals or other honorary rewards, to such persons as may distinguish themselves by the most successful exertions in these pursuits; but they have not, as yet specifically determined the objects to which such rewards should be applied, and the extent to which it would be proper to carry them. They have also been of opinion, that measures might be advantageously taken for engaging in America, or the West Indies, persons of good character, natives of Africa, or the descendants of Africans, who should instruct the colonists and natives in the cultivation and manufacture of indigo; in the best mode of raising and cleaning cotton, rice, and other articles of tropical culture. The prosecution of these measures must, of course, depend on the extent of the Society's funds;

In the consideration of the various articles of exportable produce, which may be cultivated with advantage in Africa, the attention of the Committee has been particularly drawn to COTTON. With the mode of raising the cotton tree the natives of the Western Coast of Africa are almost universally acquainted, although the particular species of cotton grown there, (and from which they manufacture cloth of an excellent fabric) is so unsuitable to the English market, that the price which it would obtain would not repay the expence of raising it, and conveying it to this country. As the natives of Africa, however, are already familiarized to the culture of cotton; as it requires only six or seven months from the time of sowing the seed to bring it to maturity; and as the process of preparing it for sale is short and simple: it appeared to the Committee to be a matter of great importance to introduce among them the seed of a superior species of this plant. They accordingly applied to Mr. Alderman Shaw and Mr. Alderman Prinsep, to use their good offices in procuring for them, the former from Georgia, the latter from the Brazils, a quantity of the best kinds of cotton seed; and from both these gentlemen they have received the most satisfactory promises of assistance. Subsequently to this application, a cargo of cotton, of a very excellent quality, which had not been freed from the seed,

arrived in the River Thames. Through the interference of Messrs. Hardcastle and Reyner, two zealous friends to the improvement of Africa, the purchaser of this cotton has agreed, that the seed, which is found to be in a state of perfect preservation, shall be wholly at the disposal of the Committee. A large quantity of it therefore, put up in small packages, so as to admit of its easy distribution, will be ready for transmission by the first conveyance.

By means of the same gentlemen who have favoured the Institution in this instance, a plentiful supply of seed of the best kind of cotton, though not in an equal state of preservation with that just mentioned, had been procured from a large cotton manufacturer at Manchester; and an opportunity has been taken of sending a part of it to Sierra Leone, by a vessel which left the river about a fortnight ago.

The Committee are aware, that it may be objected to this attempt to extend the cultivation of cotton, that the supply of that article is already equal to the demand; and that therefore the measures pursued by the Committee are impolitic. But they would observe in reply to this objection, that cotton is an article the growth of which in Africa will occasion less of competition with our own Colonies than almost any other article of tropical produce which could be named; and that

it is important to be preparing sources from which a supply of cotton may be drawn, should circumstances arise to interrupt our commercial relations with America, or with the other places which now furnish it. But independently of these considerations it may be presumed, that in proportion as the natives of Africa supply us with the raw material, they will be capable of paying for a larger quantity of the manufactured article.

The Committee think that it may be of use to enumerate in this place, for the information of the Subscribers, what other articles there are which Africa may be expected to furnish as a return to the British merchant for the goods he may send thither.

The first they will specify is GOLD. This precious metal is found in many parts of Africa, sometimes in small lumps, in a pure state; but for the most part it is procured by merely washing, with care, the sand taken from the bed of the river. The quantity obtained in this way, indeed, will barely pay the labour required to free it from the sand. It nevertheless proves the existence of gold mines in that country, which, it is presumed, may be found and opened, should the advancing civilization of Africa admit of that free intercourse, which would give an opportunity to European mineralogists of exploring this source of wealth.*

* See Appendix B.

Ivory has hitherto formed, next to slaves, the largest branch of African commerce, and its quantity will of course not be lessened by the new circumstances in which Africa is placed.

Bees Wax may be obtained in every part of Africa; and in some places, particularly the Rivers Gambia and Gaboon, it forms a considerable part of the present exports. It might of course be greatly encreased by encouraging the rearing of Bees.

Dye-Woods, of various kinds, including Camwood, Barwood, and Fustick, are now exported, the two first in considerable quantities from Africa. Requiring no previous cultivation, but only to be cut down in order to be brought to market, and thus affording a present temptation to exertion, the commerce in articles of this description has not been equally affected by the Slave Trade, as the commerce in those articles which require previous culture, and the profits of which are remotely prospective. Without doubt, however, when the intercourse with the interior of Africa shall become more open and secure, not only may the trade in the Dye-Woods already specified be encreased, but other valuable Dye-Woods will probably be discovered.

Many kinds of Timber are likewise produced in Africa, which are supposed to be well adapted for the use of *Cabinet Makers, Inlayers*, and even

of *Shipwrights.* The importation of these is discouraged by the high duties payable on *unrated woods*, amounting at present to about £27 per Cent. ad valorem.

POTASH might also be procured from Africa: the clearing of the forests would of course supply materials for the manufacture of this useful article.

GUM SENEGA and GUM COPAL are now imported into this country from Africa, in a quantity nearly equal to the demand. Besides these, there are many other gums in Africa, which, if properly examined, might prove useful, both to our manufacturers and chemists. Gums, as was observed in the case of Dye-Woods, require no cultivation, and hardly any labour to prepare them for market.

PALM OIL, which is useful in the manufacture of soap, may be obtained in considerable quantities.

INDIGO grows wild in almost every part of the African Coast, and might therefore easily be brought into cultivation. Almost all the Indigo which is now consumed in Europe, is imported from the East Indies, under the disadvantages of a voyage more than thrice as long as that from Africa. Besides the Indigo, there is another plant which the natives use as a blue dye, which appears to impart

a more indelible colour, and which, should it ſtand the test of experiment, might also be cultivated.

RICE forms the principal food of the Africans, and might doubtless become an article of export, for the supply of the West Indies and Europe.

Several varieties of the COFFEE, one of a kind not inferior, it is supposed, to the Mocha, are found growing wild in the mountains of Sierra Leone. The cultivation of this article has been begun at that Colony, and promises to succeed. It may thence be extended to every part of the continent.

SUGAR CANE of an excellent quality grows with hardly any culture, in many parts of Africa, The Committee do not recommend this, at the present moment, as an article to be cultivated with a view to exportation. Still its existence, and luxuriant growth, serve to shew what are the capabilities of that country.

MALAGUETTA PEPPER, an article in consideable demand, grows wild in great abundance on the windward coast.

A variety of other SPICERIES, including the CAYENNE, GINGER, CUBEBS, CARDAMUMS, species of NUTMEG, and CINNAMON, are found in Africa, and might be cultivated with advantage.

CASTOR OIL, MUSK, and various other DRUGS * might also be brought thence, together with the

DIAN ARROW ROOT, TAPIOCA and SAGO.

* See Appendix C.

TOBACCO is cultivated on a small scale, in various parts of Africa, and might, if it were desirable, be cultivated still more extensively.

A few HIDES are now imported from the River Gambia: the number will doubtless encrease, as cattle can be more securely reared.

SPONGE may also be procured thence.

But besides the articles above enumerated, as already existing in Africa, there are others of a very valuable kind, such as OPIUM, which might easily be transported thither. The COCHINEAL and the SILK WORM might also be reared there. In short, it may be said that there are no articles, produced between the tropics, which may not be naturalized in that part of Western Africa, which has hitherto been the theatre of the Slave Trade.

It is hardly necessary to add, that all the different fruits, esculent roots, and grain, which grow in other tropical countries, are raised there; such as Cocoa Nuts, Limes, Lemons, Oranges, Plantanes, Bananas, Papaws, Guavas, Melons, Pine Apples, Cashew Nuts, Tamarinds, Pumpkins, Yams, Cassada, Eddoes, Indian Corn, Millet, &c. Few of the fruits which have been mentioned, however, could be made to form any part of a return cargo, on account of the length of the voyage, except in the shape of pickles or preserves.

The Committee have omitted to mention several articles, which, though they may afford advan-

tageous modes of employing the labour of Africa, yet will not furnish an export to Europe; such as SALT, which is now manufactured to a small extent on the Sea Coast, (for the purpose of supplying the interior where it is in high demand,) and the quantity of which might be much enlarged; and the fruit of the COLA Tree, so famed for its tonic qualities, as to be carried by the Satees or travelling merchants, from the neighbourhood of Sierra Leone, to every part of the Continent, even to Egypt and Abyssinia.

Notwithstanding the encouraging detail which has now been given, it may perhaps be objected, that the hope of creating any considerable trade in the productions of Africa is proved to be delusive by past experience. "If the capabilities of that quarter of the globe," it may be said, "are such as they have been represented to be, what has prevented the developement of them during the long period which has elapsed since the commencement of our intercourse with it; and particularly as of late the efforts of the Sierra Leone Company have been directed to that object?" The grand obstacle most unquestionably has been—the Trade in Slaves. It is this, which, by destroying the security both of person and property in every part of Africa, beyond the narrow limits of the Colony of Sierra Leone; by polluting the sources of justice; by not only exciting wars between nations, but raising

the arm of every man against his neighbour; has paralysed every effort of prospective industry, and repressed even the desire of cultivating more than was wanted for immediate subsistance. The truth of this statement is very strikingly exemplified in a letter received during the last year from Governor Ludlam, in which that gentleman gives an account of the baneful effects of the Slave Trade witnessed by himself, in the country on the banks of the river Sherbro, about one hundred miles to the southward of Sierra Leone.

—"Thus," he says, "has this fertile country been rendered a desert, and its trade, which when you knew it, was so extensive, been almost annihilated. What its population was at that time I have no means of judging, but it must have been considerable. I speak however within compass when I say, that some thousands of square miles are now without an inhabitant. In this extent is included some of the richest land on the Windward Coast. I have never heard a place pointed out which equalled Boom in fertility. Mr. Taylor told me that he never saw finer sugar cane in the West Indies, than grows wild in Bagroo. And as for the interior country behind the Sherbro, it must also be rich from the quantity of rice and cotton cloth they bring down." Mr. Ludlam's details of the horrid practices which had led to the desolation he describes will be found in the

Appendix.* And let it be remembered, that while in England we have been rejoicing, for the last twelve months, in having passed a law for the abolition of the Slave Trade, Africa has continued until the present year to endure all the evils of that Trade, aggravated by the eager competition of the Slave Traders on the eve of its termination. An extract of a private letter written by Governor Ludlam in November last, will give a faint idea of the enormities and miseries which prevailed in the neighbourhood of Sierra Leone at that period.

"The influence of ————, in ————, seems to be supreme. Not long since he engaged with other chiefs in the neighbourhood, to make war suddenly on a few small towns. I do not find that any dispute previously existed. H————, who bought most of the slaves, said plainly, it was made merely to enable the chiefs to pay their debts. ———— appears to have been the leader, and to have outwitted his own allies. Marching with a chosen body a few hours before the time, he came unawares on the chief town, and seized all the inhabitants without firing a shot. Having thus obtained the youngest and best of the booty, and killed one or two old people in the first bustle, he is said to have turned adrift those who were unsaleable, and then, in conjunction with his allies, to have taken three other towns. Part of the

* See Appendix D.

younger and more active people escaped from these, having been alarmed by ——'s first assault; but on the whole, said H————, 'they caught a pretty good lot.'

"The war in Rokelle is suspended: all parties seem to have been too busy in *Trade* to think of regular war. The same is the case in Sherbro. In both places they are catching each other openly and secretly, and on all manner of pretences; but not fighting.

"I believe however that more money will be lost than gained in the Slave Trade this year. Most of those who did not go off very early, have met with many difficulties in obtaining their Slaves, and provisions sufficient to carry them off. They have also suffered much in their crews, officers as well as men.

"Several Vessels are reported to have been lost or cut off, chiefly to Leeward; and several insurrections have happened. The reason is said to be, that a great number of Beach-men,* and Grumettas† have been sent off, in consequence of the unusual demand for slaves."

* This is the name given to the persons, residing on the Coast, who act as interpreters to the Captains of Ships, and assist them in condcting their trade.

† Or domestic servants. These have always been considered as not liable to be sold, unless when convicted of crimes to which the crime of Slavery is attached.

In such a dreadful state of society as is here exhibited, what success could rationally be expected in any attempt to promote agriculture or legitimate commerce? The attempt was obviously hopeless. And even if there existed no other assignable cause for the small progress made by the Sierra Leone Company, in meliorating the condition of Africa, the account now given seems to furnish a satisfactory solution of it.

The Committee, however, are desirous of cautioning the Subscribers against expecting any very great effects to be immediately produced, even by the cessation of the Slave Trade. Africa, exhausted by the expiring struggles of that ruinous traffick, may for a time be incapable of much exertion in other directions. On the coast especially, where the operations of the Society must commence, the population is so greatly thinned, by the excessive demands which have been made upon it, as to place very considerable difficulties in the way of the general diffusion of knowledge, and the general excitment of industry. Large districts in the neighbourhood of Sierra Leone, which, ten years ago, were comparatively populous, are now reduced to wastes, with hardly a trace of their former culture. And if an estimate were to be made of the existing population, for about seventy or eighty miles inland, on that district of coast which extends from the Rio Grande to Cape Palmas, with the exception of one state where some degree of se-

curity and improvement is enjoyed in consequence of the adoption of the Mahomedan code, the average amount would probably be found to be less than seven persons to a square mile.

These facts, at the same time, are not of a nature which ought to have any effect in discouraging the exertions of the Society: on the contrary, by displaying the magnitude of that work of beneficence and mercy in which it is engaged, they ought rather to redouble those exertions. The difficulties are great, but by no means insuperable. Though the coast has been so greatly depopulated, yet the African continent is still possessed of an immense population. If security be given to the Coast, and encouragements held out to industry, the waste will soon be reanimated with new life. Labourers will migrate to the spot where their persons will be safe, and their labour productive. Men of commercial enterprize will be attracted to the points where the manufactures of Europe may be safely bartered for the productions of Africa; and the benefits of industrious occupation, of a fair and legitimate commerce, of order, justice, and security, being once felt, they cannot fail to be duly appreciated and widely diffused. *

But how, it will be asked, is that security which is the parent of industry, and of all those blessings which attend industry, to be attained? This is a subject which has occupied the attention of the

* See Appendix E.

Committee, and on which individual members of their body have faoured them with valuable suggestions; but as yet it is one on which they are not prepared fully to enter. They will at present advert only to a single point connected with it.

One great, it may be almost said, indispensable step to the attainment of the security here spoken of would be, to induce the other nations of the earth to follow the example which has been set them by Great Britain and America, and to relinquish the Trade in Slaves. It cannot be denied that much of the success of any plan, which may be devised with a view to the improvement of Africa, will depend on the degree in which that trade is generally suppressed. At present, indeed, the Portugueze settled at Brazil are the only persons at liberty to carry it on. Whether they can be prevailed upon to abandon it, and whether any measures can be taken effectually to prevent British capital from swelling the negro population, and enlarging the cultivation, of South America, at the expence of the protracted misery of the African continent and the eventual ruin of our own Colonies; are questions which the Committee will not now discuss. It may however be possible to induce the government of Brazil, if not wholly to abandon the Slave Trade, yet to confine it within certain limits, by forbidding the supply of any Colony belonging to a foreign nation, and by restraining their traders to the eastern Coast of

Africa, or at least to that coast and the coast of Angola. This may be the more practicable, since, with the exception of not quite a thousand Slaves, which have been annually taken by the Portugueze from their settlement of Bissao at the mouth of the Rio Grande, their Slave Trade is, in point of fact, already confined within the limits which have been specified. And, should the Portugueze agree to this restriction, the African Coast, from the 20th degree of North Latitude to the 4th or 5th degree of South Latitude, an extent of about 2300 miles, would be entirely free from the European Slave Trade, at least during the continuance of the present war.

But, supposing this object to be attained, it must still require the utmost efforts, on the part of the friends of Africa, so to improve the present crisis, as that on the termination of the war, those powers, who may wish to resume the Slave Trade, may find the Africans so much enlightened with respect to their true interests as to be proof against its temptations. Under these circumstances it seems unnecessary to endeavour to impress on the Subscribers, how very urgent is the call for exertion; and, with a view to that exertion, how important it is that funds should be provided for giving effect to the beneficial designs of the Institution.

The Committee, before they close their Report, will briefly advert to the measures which have

parts of Africa, the knowledge which they may have thus acquired.

The Subscribers will readily perceive that a very wide field is here opened for their benevolent exertions; nor can the Committee contemplate it without an ardent desire that the funds of the Institution may be so enlarged, as to enable them to embrace the opportunity which will in that case be afforded them, of conferring a signal benefit on Africa.

It now only remains for the Committee to lay before the Subscribers the state of the Society's Funds.

Amount of Subscriptions and Donations....	£2976	2	7
Expence of Printing and circulating the Reports, &c. advertising Meetings, hire of Rooms for Meetings, Collector's Commission, Stationery, and other incidental charges to this time	494	2	9
	£2481	19	10

APPENDIX.

A.

Hints respecting the means of civilizing Africa; submitted to the consideration of the Committee by a Member of the Institution.

"THE great bar to the civilization of AFRICA is now removed, by the abolition of a traffic, which has hitherto shut her out from improvement by a barrier more insuperable than the mountains of Atlas or the sands of Zaara. Her intercourse, therefore, with cultivated nations, will, it may be hoped, hereafter become the channel through which her thirsty land may receive those streams of plenty which are spread so largely over happier regions; and Africa enjoy at last, "in the evening of her days," "the benefits of knowledge, and the blessings of religion." How those benefits and blessings may most certainly and most quickly be communicated, is a problem which well deserves the attention of the greatest masters of political science. A profound knowledge of general principles, as well as an intimate acquaintance with details, are undoubtedly required for its solution. A large investigation of the question is not intended; but a few cursory, and rather obvious remarks on this subject, cannot be uninteresting. The following speculations, however, must be understood only as hints for a general "projet," without insinuating any minute enquiries into the practical

difficulties which may oppose its execution. The first advance to excellence is to conceive greatly, and though it may prove impossible to effect all that seems desirable, still it is of great importance to establish a standard, to know what we pursue, and when we deviate.

"The Act lately passed in this country will, at least during the war (if the cession of Biasso * can be obtained from the Portugueze, and that nation can be induced to confine its Slave Trade within the line of its present operation) liberate a range of country from the ravages of the Slave Trade, extending from Cape Verd, in latitude 15 North, to Congo, in latitude 6 South. This is the field in which our beneficence may profitably display itself, for to this vast territory we have sufficient access. It is filled, to the distance of 100 or 150 miles into the interior, with a great number of petty principalities under the government of their several chieftains, who may for the most part be considered as absolute. Many of these little states are independent of each other; while some are bound together by a loose federal union under a nominal head; a powerful vassal however paying little attention to the sovereignty of his leige lord. They can hardly be said to be controuled by any system of international law, or general policy; nor are they subjected to the jurisdiction of a legislative, or even of any regular judicial council. Their law is strength, and their strength men. Their territorial limits are ill defined, the rights of succession ill settled. The passions and caprices of their chiefs are unchecked by the power of privileged orders or national assemblies. The Slave Trade has nursed them for centuries in habits of violence and

* Biassao is a small island at the mouth of the Rio Grande, and is the only settlement possessed by the Portugueze on the Windward Coast of Africa.

insecurity; and the acts of mutual aggression, which the temptations afforded by that traffic have occasioned, remain deeply imprinted on the memories both of chiefs and people—the seeds of eternal hostility thick sown in minds exasperated with the sense of injuries received and inflicted. A state of society more miserably dismembered, and in which the elements seem less capable of combination, can scarcely be imagined. Europe might be re-barbarized before Africa could civilize herself. On the other hand, the whole of this extensive track is washed by the ocean, and is therefore easily accessible from every quarter; the soil is rich, and capable of furnishing all those tropical fruits which are so largely consumed in the rich empires of Europe; and a vast multitude of rivers entering almost every part of this territory, and connecting the whole of that maritime belt now described with the sea, supply great facilities, both for the production and conveyance of those commodities which may hereafter constitute the surplus wealth of this quarter of the globe. In short it would be difficult to determine, whether the physical advantages or moral impediments to the civilization of Africa be the greater.

"Happily, however, man possesses more absolute dominion over moral than over physical causes; and it remains for us to pay back to Africa some part of that enormous debt which has been accumulating against us. Great Britain possesses several establishments on the windward coast, and a considerable number of forts or factories (for in such a traffic as the Slave Trade, forts and factories are synonimous) scattered along the line of coast which lies between Cape Three Points and Benin; while no other nation at present possesses any establishment in that quarter; if we except the French fort of Senegal, at the northern extremity of the windward coast, the small Portugueze colony of Bissao, and two or three

Dutch forts now wholly at our mercy. The British forts on the Gold coast are at present in the hands of the African Company, and it is needless to say to what purposes they have been hitherto applied. The expence however incident to these settlements has long been defrayed out of the public purse; and the African Company, (which is a regulated body, founded by the act of 1750 on the ruins of an old exclusive company), is merely the channel through which these supplies are distributed. The first step then which seems desirable is, to obtain a surrender of all those settlements; if possible also the surrender of Bassao to the crown of Great Britain. The second is to consolidate the whole under one government, and to constitute a presidency. Whether the great objects to be embraced in this establishment can conveniently be left to form part of the details of our colonial office, it is the province of others to decide. This system of consolidation is requisite in the present case for the same reasons which render it generally desirable. Unity and consistency of design cannot otherwise be secured, and these are necessary upon a principle of economy, to prevent a great waste of time, stock, and labour.

"The next question which presents itself is much more intricate and extended. What are the means to be adopted for reclaiming Africa from her present unsocial state, and preventing or diminishing the evils which must spring from a consitution of things, such as has been above described? The first and most obvious measure is, by all possible means to encourage internal industry; and, happily, there are circumstances which, even in that ill-settled state of society, seem favourable to the attempt. The African chieftains are in a great degree absolute; and they are so numerous, that they bear perhaps nearly the same proportion to the general population, as the higher classes in Great Britain to the mass of the nation.

A large part of their dependents are in a state of servitude; that is, though possessed by the customs of Africa of many civil rights, their labour to a certain extent is the property of their masters. Hitherto this labour has been of little value. Every chieftain was a Slave-factor, and men being the only export article, his subjects were valuable to him only as they furnished the means of *panyaring* his neighbours, or were themselves, in default of other resources, objects of legal conviction for witchcraft, which made not only the convict but his family liable to sale. These chiefs however retain a strong taste for the various articles of merchandize which they have been accustomed to purchase from Europeans, and will doubtless be willing to continue the commerce in those articles. This the labour of their vassals may enable them to effect. Let every encouragement then be given by this country to the raising of those articles in Africa, which will find a demand in our markets. For this purpose instruction must be highly useful, and to promote the same end there can be no objection to such Custom-House regulations in the way of bounties, drawbacks, &c. as may serve to stimulate exertion in Africa. The disadvantages under which their competition with other tropical countries is commenced, may render such measures necessary; and Great Britain ought not to regret some expence, where blessings so great may be bestowed, where injuries so aggravated are to be recompensed.

" 2. The export wealth of Africa it is evident must be chiefly agricultural. Her soil and climate are fitted for the culture of fruits which no art can raise cheaply in our northern latitudes, and with these she may be able to supply us; while in manufactured articles, our advantages of capital and skilled industry are so enormous, as to render her rivalry hopeless. At the same time it is of first rate importance, that encouragement should be given to her

manufactories for home consumption. The Africans may go on purchasing daily by their field industry more and more European luxuries, yet remain nearly as barbarous and as ignorant as ever; but if they can be taught to desire decent apparel, and comfortable habitations, innumerable blessings will spring up from these humble shoots. Habits of domestic virtue, order, and happiness, habits of self-estimation, a sense of character and propriety, a desire of knowledge, prospective industry, and all the lovely family of social charities which peace and contentment engender, will gradually be diffused. To this end it seems very desirable that they should be instructed without delay in some of the most useful arts and simplest machinery known among us. Much may be done in this department by the aid of schools; but perhaps still more may be effected by the activity of British settlers. Example works more rapidly than precept on all who are quick to perceive, but slow to reason; and such are children and uncultivated nations. An African will discern characters as accutely as an Englishman, while much labour is required to make him comprehend a logical proposition. At least it is easy to supply them with specimens of the most useful mechanical contrivances.

"3. One of the first steps towards the civilization of a rude people is to provide for general security; and in the state of society at present subsisting in Africa, such provision is indispensable. It is difficult to speculate at a distance on the best means of effecting this object; yet it is to be hoped that it may be possible gradually to establish, in different quarters, some description of federal court or council, whose jurisdiction may extend to the adjustment of all national rights and differences. Such institutions have, under various shapes, existed in most countries, where a number of small principalities, either rightfully or practically independent, have been crowded together.

Such was the great council of the Amphyctions among the Greeks; such probably in their original constitutions were the Cortes of Spain, the assemblies of the states, held annually under the earlier monarchs in France, and the parliament of England; such in former ages was the secret tribunal of Germany, and the Imperial Chamber in later days. Among many of the negro chiefs, as has been already said, an imperfect federal union subsists; a nominal sovereign is recognized, and palavers are held, in which complaints are presented and redressed. Here then are at least the elements of such establishments as are recommended. Their natures, forms, and the limits of their several jurisdictions, it would be idle to sketch in theory. Practical institutions must be governed by existing circumstances. But the benefits which would flow from the recognition of such judicatories are ovbious, nor does there appear sufficient reason to suppose our influence inadequate to effecting their foundation.

"4. The propriety of establishing schools and other seminaries of instruction as extensively as possible, will not be disputed. This measure, therefore, may be assumed to be necessary, and its details are too numerous for this paper. It may be observed, however, that the success of our schemes will naturally depend on the conduct of these little nurseries of knowledge; for the young are much better subjects for civilization than the old, and with due care the next generation may be as far removed above the present in general improvement, as they will themselves probably still remain below their European instructors. The Mahometans owe the ascendency which they have acquired, and are daily acquiring, over the native princes of Africa, principally to their exertions in this line. Shall Christians be less active?"

"There yet remains one great question to be examined.* Shall Great Britain rigidly confine herself to the factories now in her possession, and act on the surrounding principalities only by influence; or shall she accept the submission of such neighbouring states as may be willing to adopt her patronage? The advantages and disadvantages of either alternative are so numerous, that merely a sketch of the general arguments can be given, without attempting a decision. Two things however must be premised: first, that nothing like a project of encroachment can for a moment be listened to; and secondly, that the question ought to be considered as referring principally to the benefit of Africa.

"Considering the present state of Africa, and the authority of Europeans in that quarter, it is probable that a considerable number of the little states in the neighbourhood of our factories, would willingly place themselves under our protection. At Sherbro' the sovereignty of the King of Great Britain is at this moment recognized, and the administration of justice among the natives has long been possessed by the governors of our castles on the Gold Coast. The facilities which the adoption of that system would furnish are obvious and important. All the institutions above noticed as necessary for the civilization of Africa would then become, in a great degree, matters of mere regulation. Our customs, manners, and opinions, would spread rapidly, from the power of example, which always acts downwards with the greatest

* The obligation of extending Christianity in Africa, and the beneficial effects likely to be produced by its extension, are omitted in this discussion, as they are points which do not come immediately under the Society's consideration. Indeed the whole of the discussion that follows might have been omitted on the same grounds; and also as containing views of policy, which in themselves are extremely questionable.

force. The pure administration of justice would secure private property, and national rights be protected, without an appeal to arms, by the authority of British arbitration. But the greatest advantage, and that alone which renders the question in any degree disputable, is this: the extension of our territorial rights might prevent the future revival of the Slave Trade, by rendering such an attempt on the part of France or Holland impossible, without trenching on our authority, and furnishing thereby grounds of war. There undoubtedly is reason to fear, lest this odious traffic should, at the conclusion of the present war, once more ravage this devoted continent, if not then found reposing under the shade and shelter of the British empire. On the other hand, the attendant evils are of no common magnitude. Supposing even (what we must be very sanguine to expect) that, in the assumption of sovereignty over the native princes, Great Britain should always act with scrupulous equity, merely accepting, and never exacting, still the inconveniences must be great. Those princes, though willing to recognize our national control, will certainly not be willing to relinquish the internal authority which they now possess within their respective dominions, and the evils flowing from such a constitution of things are very great, though not very obvious. The existence too of a disposition in the British government, so liable to misconception, will probably give birth to apprehensions and jealousies, which, if we would benefit Africa, it is our duty by all possible methods to allay; nor would a satisfactory reply be easily found, should it hereafter be said that the princes of Africa had been robbed of their independence, and the people of their liberty, while too ignorant to understand the value of the privileges they surrendered. But the most alarming evil incident to such a system is, that it holds out a lure to injustice, too strong perhaps for the

political virtue of any nation; and when the vast strides which our ambition has made in the East, under the plausible pretexts of consulting at once the happiness of the native principalities, and the safety of our own establishments, are considered, a fear may well be entertained lest the existence of similar temptations in another continent should lead to similar enormities. At the same time it is fair to state the reasons which make it probable, that even under circumstances in some respects similar, Africa would not witness a repetition of those crimes which have disgraced us during two centuries in the East. That continent is much nearer to the mother country, and the transactions of our government there being in consequence more immediately under inspection, its members will feel a stronger dread of responsibility. The princes of Africa are poor, her cities hamlets, her palaces huts. That the wealth of Asia should be irresistibly attractive to European adventurers can excite no surprise; but here ambition will find fewer allurements, and avarice none. It cannot be denied that exclusive companies are very favourable to both the encouragement and shelter of delinquency, and much of our ancient maladministration in India may justly be imputed to this cause. The direction of our African establishments, however, being committed to the crown, will of course be regularly subjected to Parliamentary investigation. And, last though not least, this country is now become so wakeful to all her interests, foreign as well as domestic, the number of our political citizens so large, and general opinion so powerful, that neither public nor private rapacity are likely to escape without correction. These are some of the arguments which bear on this question. Its determination must be left to those who are willing to speculate, and bound to decide."

B

"UNDOUBTEDLY all the inland countries in Guinea abound with gold mines; and though the natives are not artists enough to know when or how to follow a vein, yet they find great quantities of gold in several of their mines, which are all so sacred to them, that they will not permit any European miner either to see their mines or to search for others; nevertheless they bring down good store of what they find to the sea coast to traffic withal. Besides which, the natives near the sea have another way of finding gold, as thus: in the rainy seasons, after a wet night, the sea shore is generally covered with people, mostly women, each having a couple of bowls or platters made of callabashes; the largest of which they fill with earth and sand, such as is driven down from the mountains by violent floods in the rivers and brooks, &c. This they wash with many waters, by often turning the bowl round, till it washes over the brims. The gold, if any, sinks to the bottom, by reason of its weight; and thus they continue till they have washed it all away, except two or three spoonfuls of the bottom, which they carefully take out and lay by in the small bowl; they then fill their platter again, and so wash on till about noon. By that time the small bowl is pretty well filled with the dregs, which they carry home and search diligently. Sometimes they find a shilling's worth, sometimes but two penny worth, sometimes two crowns worth, and very often no gold at all." Smith's Voyage to Guinea, p. 138, 139.

C

THE second volume of Dr. Winterbottom's valuable work entitled, "An Account of the Native Africans in the Neighbourhood of Sierra Leone, to which is added, an Account of the present state of Medicine among them," (sold by Hatchard), contains much important information on the subject of the medicinal plants which are found growing in Africa. Among others he mentions the bark of a large tree called by the Foolas *Bellenda*, and by the Susoos and Mandingos *Bembee*, and which is used in Africa with great success in epedemic dysenteries. He adds that, "in several instances of diarrhœa it shewed itself very effectual. After my arrival in London, I gave some of it to my friend Dr. Willan, who made trial of it in agues, fevers, sore throat, and dysentery, very much to his satisfaction." Vol. II. p. 46.

In the Appendix to the same volume, (No. ii.) Dr. Winterbottom details a number of cases in which this bark proved efficacious. He thus closes his account:

"Dr. Clark has exhibited the African bark in the infirmary at Newcastle, with complete success in several cases of intermittents, and coincides with Dr. Willan and Dr. Cappe, in thinking it a valuable accession to the Materia Medica. The high price of Peruvian bark, the uncertainty of obtaining a constant and regular supply of it during the time of war, and the schemes of interested men to enhance its value and lower its quality, render it an object of importance for us to increase the number of substitutes. The *Bellenda* appears worthy of being ranked in this class: though the cases adduced in its favour are too few for any strong inferrences to be drawn, yet the recommendation of physicians eminent in their

profession, and possessing such a share of public esteem, must excite others to further trials with this bark, when a sufficient quantity of it is imported."

D

Extract from a Letter of Governor LUDLAM, *dated at Sierra Leone,* 29th *October,* 180⁶

"THE ruin of this country (the Sherbro) is however but partially to be ascribed to the *present* war. The system on which the Native Chiefs seem uniformly to act, has a natural tendency to poverty and depopulation. They live by the Slave Trade, the more active by carrying it on, the more indolent by what they extort from the Traders; occasionally selling one of their own people, or an unprotected stranger, to help them out of their pecuniary difficulties. All this discourages cultivation. The industrious find out a quicker way to wealth: the indolent an easier way to live. What I have said applies principally to the chiefs. But the same system discourages still more the industry of the people. The Chief is prompted by his indolence and necessities, to keep but few domestics, (in other words he sells as many as he can) and these few are little looked after. His plantations therefore are small, and he is always poor. Should an industrious Freeman under him get rich, his own superiority would be lost. He must keep all his people as poor as himself; and therefore must bring a *Palaver* against every aspiring subject, sieze the little property he has collected, and perhaps sell himself. Though the Chief will

not rise he must keep others down. I was about to note down some particular instances in proof of this, but I found it so generally known and acknowledged among the Traders residing in the country that I thought it superfluous. One of them told me, that for some reason the quantity of ground which any one is permitted to plant is closely limited. The country is thus systematically kept poor, and the influence of the Traders, especially such as join the character of a native Chief to that of an active Trader, is proportionably encreased. The number of domestic Slaves belonging to one of the latter description is great, and both Slaves and Freemen are attached to him in consequence of his ability to supply them with all necessaries, and to support him right or wrong against all who would injure or punish them. At their head, he can domineer over any of the petty Chiefs with their two or three dozens of subjects; he can make war upon them, or force them to make war upon others.

"War, as carried on by the Natives, depopulates the country in an extraordinary degree. To give no quarter to an enemy, or to put to death prisoners taken in the field, would doubtless reduce their number: but men, and men in arms, would be the only sufferers; and the slaughter of an army would tend to put an end to the war. In Africa, however, war is made equally on men, women, and children: those who are unable to lift a weapon are as much its victims as those who carry a musket, and a Chief can never want funds for carrying on a war so long as his enemy has abundance of people. I believe that C———— would never have been able to recommence the war had it not been for the lure held out, of the great number of Captives who would easily be taken. Much as T———— has suffered in the war, he is said not to have sold [illegible] for his own share."

Another source of depopulation is, that for every offence a man is lost to the community; too commonly his whole family also. Whoever carries on trade finds abundance of Europeans ready to advance any goods he may want, and to take off his Slaves. The only question is, how he shall get Slaves. It is obvious that his interest is to encrease the commission of crimes, even if he do not seek to obtain Slaves by committing the deepest crimes himself.* In a short time the creditor becomes pressing for a part of his due, but the trader is indolent, or *the path is stopped* (meaning that access to the interior from which Slaves are obtained is prevented) or he has wasted his money. A domestic Slave, a dependant, or a near relation has been given on first receiving the loan, under the name of *pawn*, but being unredeemed in due time is sold. If no unprotected persons can be kidnapped, nor a sufficient number caught by means similar to those mentioned in the note below, the relations and domestics of the debtor must be seized, and frequently all the people of a town may be sent on board a Slave ship for one man's debt; but the debtor himself is seldom or never meddled with.

* I was one day detained very long at P———, and on enquiring the reason, an old man was pointed out, who had sat long with me in C———'s house, concerning whom the Chiefs were then talking a *Palaver*. His name was ———. He is said to have made a practice through life of seeking out a great number of the finest women in the country for his wives, and by their means entrapping the men in his neighbourhood, especially young ones whom he hires from various parts of the country as Grumettas. He had now overstepped the limits of African law with regard to some young men of powerful families whom he had sold. Or rather, I believe, these powerful families could not suffer so infamous and well known a practice, though consistent with the letter of the law, to injure their own relations. I did not learn the result, but from his influence with C——— there is no doubt he escaped punishment, though he would be obliged to surrender his prey.

"A belief in *Witchcraft*, and trials by *Red-water*, are carried here to a greater extent than even in the adjacent countries. No one is ignorant that the Natives believe every death to be occasioned by magical influence, under whatever form of sickness or accident the cause of death may appear to the unilluminated eyes of an European. The Bulloms carry this belief practically to such an extent as often to break every tie of natural affection. Those who have been most under the influence of such superstitious fears, and have therefore subjected the greatest numbers to the *Red-water Ordeal*, are generally accused in their turn, and often by one of their own family. Of this I heard numerous instances, especially in D—— T——'s family. K—— found even so intelligent a man as T—— himself one day about to give red-water to his father's sister. With much difficulty he and another trader prevailed on him to desist. And the abhorrence of the offence (viz. witchcraft) is such that death itself is almost to be preferred to living under the imputation of such a crime. None seem to prejudge and detest the offender more than those of his own household. Before I left P— P——, H—— (a Chief) sent me a message requesting me, should I succeed in re-establishing peace, to use my utmost efforts to abolish the red-water. He had himself seen King S—— kill six persons in one morning with it; and an equal number out of the families of the victims were immediately sold. A very respectable man being accused, neither money nor solicitation could save him from death by the red-water; and his whole family consisting of eight persons was immediately sold. C——— assured me, that in one way or other, in ordinary times, two-thirds of those who were sent off that part of the Coast were sold for witchcraft."

E

It seems important to remark in this place, that the hope of establishing an extensive and increasing trade with Africa, a trade which may compensate to this country much of that injury which our commerce has sustained from the hostile edicts of the French government, is far from being visionary. The exports from this country to the island of St. Domingo during the last year are supposed to have amounted to no less a sum than £1,200,000. Now the total value of the merchandize exported from this country in any one year, for the purpose of carrying on the African Slave Trade, even according to the statements of the advocates of that trade, never exceeded this sum, and generally fell below it. The island of St. Domingo therefore, containing a population of less than half a million, already consumes more of our merchandize, than was consumed, during the continuance of the Slave Trade, by the whole of Western Africa, containing a population of at least one hundred times that number. May it not hence be fairly presumed, that if some pains are taken to excite, and properly to direct, the industry of Africa, a trade may soon be created with that country, which shall call for a quantity of our manufactures not only equal, but greatly superior, to the utmost demands of the Slave Trade. If a community of 4 or 500,000 negroes in St. Domingo, recently emancipated from the yoke of slavery, and still distracted by internal commotions, can furnish a valuable return for so large an amount of merchandize as is now sent thither, can it be believed, when we consider the immense capabilities of Africa, that the fifty millions of negroes, to whom we now may have access from its

Western shore, will not, in a short time, be able to take off our hands a much larger amount than this? This view of the subject, it is hoped, will have its due weight on the minds of those who have an interest in the extension of our trade and manufactures.

F

THE ARABIC language has been extended, by means of the Mahommedans, over a large part of the Western Coast of Africa. The knowledge of this language, by British subjects resident on the coast, would greatly tend to facilitate our intercourse with the interior, while it would afford a ready means of spreading useful knowledge throughout Africa. Tracts printed in Arabic would be eagerly read there, and might be dispersed to the farthest extremity of the Continent. It is therefore highly important that the Institution should encourage the cultivation of Arabic literature at Sierra Leone. The salary of a teacher of Arabic will not be a great burden upon the funds of the Society, as a native, competently qualified for that office, may be obtained at a moderate rate. The business of the teacher will be to instruct such Europeans and others, in the Arabic tongue, as may be placed under his tuition by persons receiving authority for that purpose from the Directors; and the diligence of the scholars may be quickened by periodical examinations, at which extaordinary proficiency may be distinguished by honorary rewards.

The SUSOO language is spoken very generally on the coast for about one hundred and fifty miles to the Northward of Sierra Leone. It is also understood by a great part of the Foulah and Mandingo nations, and is the vernacular tongue of the country of Jalonkadoo, a large

kingdom, in the mountains of which the Niger is represented as taking its rise. It would not therefore be too large a calculation to suppose, that it is spoken over a space of eight hundred or a thousand miles square; a space considerably larger than Great Britain. This language, which is remarkably simple and easy of acquisition, has been reduced to writing by the zeal of Mr. Brunton, who resided for some time as a missionary among the Susoos, and who was assisted in his task by some Susoo youths who had been brought over to England for education, and have since returned to Africa. The fruit of Mr. Brunton's labours is a Susoo Grammar and Vocabulary, and several Susoo Tracts, all of which have been printed.

The considerations which have been suggested as a ground for the appointment of an Arabic teacher at Sierra Leone, apply with equal force to the case of the Susoo language. A competent teacher of the Susoo may be engaged on the spot for a moderate salary; and the same means of exciting and rewarding the diligence of the students of Susoo, may be pursued, as has been proposed in the case of the Arabic students.

Colonists or natives duly instructed in these languages, and in English, might be employed as school-masters in the native towns; and knowledge and improvement be thus rapidly extended.

THIRD

REPORT

OF THE

DIRECTORS

OF THE

AFRICAN INSTITUTION,

READ

AT THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING ON THE
25th OF MARCH, 1809.

TO WHICH IS ADDED,

AN APPENDIX.

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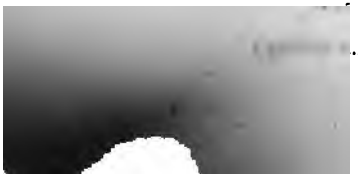

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THIRD REPORT,

&c. &c.

THE Directors propose to lay before the Subscribers a brief summary of their proceedings during the last year, referring them to the Appendix for such farther details as may be likely to prove interesting or useful.

In the last Report, the Directors stated, that it was their intention to incur the expense of instructing two African Youths, who were about to return to their own country, in the admirable system of education, which was first adopted in India by Dr. Bell, and has since been introduced into this country, and greatly improved, by that gentleman and Mr. Lancaster, with a view to its being transplanted to Africa. By the favour of his Royal Highness the Duke of Gloucester, these youths, to whom a third was afterwards added, were allowed to attend, for several months, at the Royal Military Asylum at Chelsea, where about one thousand children are educated on the above plan; and were permitted, during that time, to act as teachers, under the eye of the Superin-

tendants of the seminary. When they had obtained what appeared a competent degree of familiarity with the details of this system, they were sent, at the expense of the Institution, to Sierra Leone, there to be employed in the business of instruction. His Majesty's Secretary of State for the Colonial Department being made acquainted with their qualifications, very liberally placed them as Schoolmasters on the Sierra Leone Establishment; so that, though they will be employed exactly in the line the Directors intended they should, their future maintenance will occasion no expense to the Institution. These young men, besides the general knowledge they acquired during a residence of seven or eight years in this country, and during that time their education was not neglected, carried back with them some knowledge of the art of drawing; and two of them were well acquainted with the weaving of Cotton.

The Directors have communicated to the Governor of Sierra Leone their wish, that every means in his power should be employed to induce the African Chiefs to send their children to be educated at the Schools established at Sierra Leone; and to promote this object, they have expressed their willingness, relying on the liberality of the public, to enlarge the limits of the expenditure to which they had been desirous of restricting him. And they have further informed him, that, if there

should be a few young men, natives of Africa, to whom, after having had a previous elementary education, it might be desirable to impart some branches of knowledge which are not attainable in Africa, but which may promise to be advantageous both to the individuals and to their country; the Directors would be disposed to incur the expense which might attend their being sent to England, their being there instructed, and afterwards sent back to Africa. It was of course the desire of the Board, that the youths selected for this purpose should be such as had given satisfactory proof of their capacity, and of their disposition to improve the advantages proposed to them.

Shortly after the last general meeting, a Memoir was presented to the Directors, pointing out some of the advantages which would be likely to accrue to Africa from the cultivation of the Arabic and Soosoo languages by persons resident at Sierra Leone, and especially by the servants of Government. The substance of this Memoir will be found in the Appendix to the Second Report, p. 42. The Directors were induced, by the representations contained in it, to adopt some Resolutions on the subject, which have already been made public*. These Resolutions, after expressing the desire of the Board to encourage and pro-

* See the Advertisement prefixed to the Second Report.

mote the study of the native languages of Africa by the Europeans, and others resident at Sierra Leone, empowered the Governor of that Colony to engage proper persons to teach the Arabic and Susoo languages to such individuals as might wish to acquire them. The Directors have not been informed whether any progress has been made in carrying these Resolutions into effect.

In the former Report, the Directors stated it to be their opinion, that a very important benefit would be conferred on the inhabitants of Africa, by introducing among them the seed of a superior species of COTTON to that which commonly grows there. To this object they have, therefore, directed much of their attention; and they are happy to say, that they have succeeded in it beyond their hopes: notwithstanding the American Embargo, not less than twelve puncheons of Cotton Seed, half being of the Sea Island, and the other half of the Upland or Bowed Cotton, have been procured from Georgia, and conveyed to Sierra Leone, and other parts of the coast. Besides this, considerable quantities of the Seed of the most valuable Cottons have been obtained at Manchester, and sent to Africa. The whole quantity of Cotton Seed already transmitted thither exceeds fifteen tons. A few barrels of it had arrived at Sierra Leone in the month of May last; some of which had been sown, and was coming up in the

month of June: but the greatest part of it would not reach its destination till about the beginning of the present year. In the course of a few months, some account may be expected of the use to which it has been applied.

The Directors, in writing to their correspondents in Africa on the subject of the growth of Cotton, were anxious to impress on their minds how desirable it is, in the present state of the Cotton Market, that the utmost exertions should be made to extend its cultivation; as, under the pressure of the American Embargo, hardly any article could better repay the Cultivator; while nothing could tend more to give importance to Africa, in the eyes both of the Legislature and the Public, than the prospect of her furnishing a large and growing supply of Cotton Wool. Nor to this end did it appear to the Directors necessary that regular plantations should be undertaken in the first instance. If individuals generally could be induced to grow a little, so considerable a quantity might, in a short time, be collected, as would afford a demonstration of the capabilities of Africa, which might be sufficient to overcome existing prejudices, and to direct the attention of the Public more generally to that quarter of the Globe.

Agreeably to these views, directions were given, that Cotton Seed should be distributed widely among the Natives, accompanied by instructions

for its culture, and information respecting its value; and the Board sent out seven Cotton Gins (machines for cleaning the Cotton), complete, with the iron-work for about twelve more. These would furnish at once the means of preparing the cotton wool for the market, and would also serve as models for the construction of similar machines.

That this important object might be still farther promoted, a paper of directions for the cultivation and management of Cotton, from the moment of putting the seed into the ground until it is in a state to be put on ship-board, has been prepared and printed*. These directions have been framed with the concurrent approbation of several persons who had been engaged in the culture of Cotton in America and the West Indies, and of others who are well acquainted with the quality and value of the article in the home market. About five hundred copies of them have been sent to Africa; and it is hoped that they may also be translated into Arabic, and circulated among the Natives who understand that language.

In the month of June last, Mr. Loutherbourg presented to the Board of Directors, through his Royal Highness the Duke of Gloucester, a sample of a species of hemp that had been manufactured from the leaves of a particular kind of Palm-tree,

* See Appendix, G.

abounding in the river Sierra Leone and its neighbourhood. The fibres of this sample, on being submitted to experiment, appeared to be not much inferior in strength to the common hemp. The Directors received information about the same time from the Governor of Sierra Leone, that, in the want of English cordage, the Colonists had been induced to make use of African rope, which was found to cost not more than one-fourth of the price of the former, and yet to be equally durable. In consequence of these concurrent statements, the Directors thought it proper to send out the necessary utensils for submitting the substance in question to a fair experiment; and to request, that a ton of the hemp, in a state fit for spinning, might be prepared at the expense of the Institution, and sent to this country. Even if it should prove greatly inferior to the Russian hemp, still the price to which that article has risen, and the general anxiety which is felt to render Great Britain as independent as possible of the Continent of Europe, makes it desirable, that the practicability of obtaining from Africa what may serve in any measure as a substitute for hemp, should be ascertained; and seems to justify the expense which, with that view, the Directors have authorized. No report has as yet been received from Africa on this point.

Another communication was made to the Board

of Directors by a Gentleman of Liverpool, on the subject of importing the Bark of the Mangrove Tree from Africa, as a substitute, in the process of tanning leather, for the Oak Bark, which has risen to an unprecedented price: and this Gentleman having also pointed out the proper method of preparing it, the Directors were induced to order a quantity of it to be sent hither from Sierra Leone, in order to try its efficacy. This order has not yet been complied with: but it appears, by a letter recently received from the Governor of Sierra Leone, that he had commenced an experiment with the Mangrove Bark in the tanning of leather, which he seems to have had no doubt would succeed.

The great abundance of the Castor-oil Nut, on the Western Coast of Africa, has induced the Directors to send out, by a late conveyance, one of the machines invented for expressing the oil; which is a much more advantageous mode of preparing this valuable medicine than the common method of boiling.

The raising of silk in Africa is a subject which has also engaged the attention of the Directors. With that view, a number of plants of the White-Mulberry Tree were sent to Sierra Leone in the month of November last, with directions for their proper management. Their success in that climate is still problematical. If they should suc-

ceed, it is conceived that there will be no reason to doubt the practicability of raising silk in Africa.

Besides the Mulberry Plants, the Directors have transmitted to Sierra Leone a variety of plants and seeds of other valuable productions; particularly the genuine Peruvian Bark, Camphor, the Green and Bohea Tea-tree, and Tobacco. Some of them, they doubt not, will be found to answer.

These different plants and seeds were sent out under the care of a Gentleman who had some knowledge of gardening, and who voluntarily offered his services to attend to them while on shipboard, and afterwards to superintend their removal thence, and their culture on shore.

The Directors have also used means, which they trust will be effectual, for procuring, both from the East and West Indies, many valuable plants, which have not hitherto been naturalized in Africa.

In their last Report, the Directors stated, that they had it in contemplation to promote the Agriculture and Commerce of Africa, by means of the distribution of honorary rewards to such persons as should distinguish themselves by the most successful exertions in these pursuits. They soon afterwards announced their intention of bestowing Premiums, of the value of fifty guineas each, on such persons as should first import into

this country the largest quantity of the following productions, the growth of Africa:—1. of Cotton Wool, not less than a ton: 2. of manufactured Indigo, not less than one hundred-weight: and 3. of White Rice, not less than ten tons; and a like premium for the cultivation of Coffee*. The only premium which has yet been adjudged, is that for the importation of Cotton. A piece of plate, of the value of fifty guineas, has been given to Messrs. Andersons, of Philpot Lane, for having imported, in the last Autumn, upwards of 10,000*lb.* weight of Cotton, the growth of the island of Tasso, in the river Sierra Leone. It was of a good quality, and sold for 2s. 8d. per pound. It would have sold at a higher price, had it been properly gathered and cleaned. A small quantity of Cotton, sent home by the Governor of Sierra Leone, though defective in the same respects, sold for 2s. 10d. per pound. The Directors understand that Messrs. Andersons have of late greatly enlarged their Cotton Plantations in the river Sierra Leone. Not less than six hundred acres, in addition to what they had in cultivation before, are said to have been prepared to be planted with Cotton in the month of May last.

The Premium offered for Rice has been claimed, but not awarded. It has been claimed for eleven

* See the Advertisement prefixed to the Second Report.

tons of Rice, imported, in the month of November last, into the West Indies from the Windward Coast of Africa: but the Directors were of opinion, that it would not be proper to give it in this case; because the offer of a Premium had been made to those only who should import Rice into Great Britain; and several vessels had sailed hence on purpose to procure cargoes of African Rice for the English Market, the return of which might be soon expected. But although they have judged it to be their duty to withhold the premium from the claimant in this instance, they have nevertheless derived much satisfaction from observing this beginning of a commercial intercourse between Africa and the West Indies, so different in its character and effects from that which alone has hitherto been carried on between them. In the present state of the West-Indian Islands, cut off from the American Continent, which furnished them with so large a share of the provisions they consumed, it seems to be of the utmost importance to cherish this new source of supply. Independently, therefore, of those powerful claims which Africa has upon our justice and liberality, this country is bound, by the plainest dictates of policy, to labour in advancing the civilization of that Continent.

A considerable impediment to the large importation of several articles of African produce

into this country, is found to arise from the high duties which are imposed on them. Palm Oil, which is now an important ingredient in the manufacture of Soap, and the demand for which has been greatly enhanced by the high price of Russian Tallow, has of late become an object of commercial attention; and some cargoes of it have been brought from Africa in the course of the last year. The trade in this article, however, has been restrained by the high duty payable upon it, which is five times as much as that paid on foreign tallow, although the price at which it sells is considerably less. Malaguetta Pepper, or Grains of Guinea, would probably meet with a much more extensive demand, were it not for the large duty payable upon it, and which amounts to about fourpence farthing per pound; although the gross price of the article (including duty) does not exceed sevenpence halfpenny per pound. The duty on Bird Pepper, as it is called, amounts to a prohibition: it is equal to the gross price that is to be obtained for it. The excise on African Coffee is 2s. per pound; while that on West-Indian Coffee is only threepence per pound, and that on East Indian only sixpence. The duty on West-Indian Ginger is only 19s. per cwt.; that on African Ginger is 43s. 4½d. per cwt. It has been one object of the Directors to represent these, and other inconveniences of a

similar kind, to Government, with a view to their removal. The subject is at this time under the consideration of his Majesty's Ministers; and the Directors trust that the representations they have made will not be ineffectual*.

Notwithstanding these discouragements, the Directors are happy to observe, that the *direct* trade between this country and Africa has considerably increased since the entire cessation of the Slave Trade; and they have little doubt that it will go on increasing with a rapid progression, provided the Abolition Laws of this country and America are effectually enforced†. To this last-mentioned object much of the attention of the Directors has been turned; and circumstances have come to their knowledge, which leave them no room to doubt that means are at this moment employed, by persons formerly engaged in the Slave Trade, for eluding the salutary provisions of the Abolition Act, and perpetuating the guilt and misery of that traffic. The Subscribers will perceive, that it would be highly inexpedient for the Directors to give publicity, either to the information which they have received on this point, or to the particular measures which they are taking to counteract these illegal proceedings. Such a disclosure would be productive of this, among other inconveniences, that it might enable

* See Appendix, H. † See Appendix, I.

the parties offending to guard more effectually against detection and punishment. The Directors, however, cannot urge too strongly on the Subscribers, individually, to watch, in their respective circles, any symptoms which may be exhibited of the revival, in any form, of this trade. The Abolition Act prohibits, under severe penalties, the insurance of Slave Ships, whether British or Foreign: and such members of this Institution as frequent Lloyd's Coffee-house cannot more effectually promote the objects for which it was formed, than by giving early notice of any attempt to infringe the law in this respect*.

The Directors also feel themselves restrained from making any particular report respecting the measures which they have adopted, or are now pursuing, with a view to induce foreign nations to restrict, or entirely to abandon, the Slave Trade; because they could not enter on the subject without disclosing communications which are of a confidential nature. They have much pleasure in stating, that his Majesty's Ministers have shewn themselves, on all occasions, fully disposed to promote, as far as it has been in their power, the purposes of the Institution; and the Directors cannot but hope that their efforts, in this respect, will not be wholly without effect.

One measure, which has occurred to the Di-

* See Appendix, L.

rectors as likely to contribute to the important end of inclining foreign nations to concur in abolishing the Slave Trade, has been, the translation into foreign languages of some of the publications on that subject which have appeared in this country. These, if printed and widely circulated, might have a considerable effect in preparing foreign States, as well as the people under their government, for the change in view. On this principle, they have resolved to promote the publication, in the Dutch, French, Spanish, and Portuguese languages, of such works and tracts as may be best adapted to produce in these nations a conviction of the inhumanity and impolicy of the Slave Trade.

The Directors will now advert to the information they have received from Africa in the course of the last year.

Letters from the Governor of Sierra Leone, dated in May last, state, that the Colony was on the most friendly terms with the surrounding natives; and that its influence among them had of late rapidly increased. None of those massacres, which were predicted as an inevitable consequence of the Abolition of the Slave Trade, had occurred in the neighbourhood of Sierra Leone. Only one trial for witchcraft had taken place for a long time; whereas formerly such trials used to be very frequent: and although in that one case the accused had been found guilty, she

had not been put to death; but after some time had been set at liberty.

"There is no fear," observes the Governor, "but that the Natives in this neighbourhood will have abundant employment. Hitherto they have been chiefly busied in the manufacture of Salt, which is in great demand. Their Rice Fields have certainly been prepared a fortnight or three weeks earlier than usual, from which I prognosticate well."

"All the wars round us are suspended for the present. I do not say that they are suspended in consequence of the Abolition; but the Abolition is very likely to prevent their revival."

"There can be no doubt that the communication between the Coast and the Interior is in a fair way of being more open."—"In the breeding of Cattle, we are greatly improving! their numbers increase, and they thrive well." And, in a subsequent letter, it is stated, that oxen are now used in the draught, much to the advantage of the Colony.

He thus concludes one of his letters:—

"This has certainly been one of the quietest and most uninteresting years I have known in Africa. I have neither trials for witchcraft, nor wars, nor kidnappings, to speak of in my journal. Perhaps we have the Abolition to thank for it*."

* See Appendix, M.

In a letter of so late a date as November last, the Governor writes:—"I have no doubt, that, if things go on as they do, this will soon be the first place on the Coast of Africa." And he expresses his sincere belief, that "Commerce and Agriculture will overspread this almost depopulated part of Africa;" and that, "if the Colony receives encouragement from the British Government, it will, in no very long time, repay the benefits received."

The information from Goree is also very encouraging. A letter from that island, dated in December last, represents Major Maxwell, the present commandant of that island, as indefatigable in his exertions to promote cultivation and civilization in that part of Africa. He has a plantation on the opposite shore, which he keeps in a high state of cultivation, chiefly with a view to stimulate the natives to follow his example. He has been supplied with some of the Cotton Seed transmitted to the Coast of Africa by the Directors; and has had a Cotton Gin constructed after the model of one of those lately sent out.

A communication has also been received from the Gold Coast respecting the political state, and the agricultural faculties, of that part of Africa; which tends to encourage the hope, that much

may be done towards its improvement, if adequate means are employed to that end*.

The only point to which the Directors have still to advert is, the state of the funds of the Institution. The expenditure, as will be seen from the statement about to be submitted to the Subscribers, has been large; but the Directors trust, that, large as it is, it will not appear to be disproportioned to the good that has been effected. It amounts in all, from March 1807, to Jan. 1, 1809, to 1550*l.* 8s. 4d. The expense of printing and gratuitously distributing between five and six thousand Copies of the Reports throughout the Kingdom, and of advertising the Institution in newspapers, and in almost all the different periodical publications, has of itself been considerable. Besides this, the expense of the maintenance, equipment, and passage to Africa, of the three youths intended for Schoolmasters; the charge of procuring and transporting Cotton Seed from America to England, and from England to Africa, as well as of the transmission of other plants and seeds; the cost, freight, &c. of the various implements sent to Africa; as Cotton Gins, Castor-oil Press, &c.; and, added to these, the necessary expense of Stationary, Assistance in Writing, and

* See Appendix, N.

other incidental charges, have entrenched greatly on the Funds of the Institution. It ought to be stated, at the same time, that great economy has been observed in the management of its concerns. No expense has as yet been incurred for a house or office; and the payments made to persons employed in writing, and in the packing and distributing of Reports, &c. and in the various other services which have been performed for the Institution, have been only occasional, and as low as the several occasions admitted: they amount only to sixty pounds: and the Directors cannot but express a confident hope, that so long as their expenditure of the Funds of the Society is confined to objects of obvious importance to the great ends of its institution, it will meet with the approbation of the Subscribers in general, and the liberal support of the Public at large.

Statement of the Receipts and Expenditure of the African Institution.

From March 1807, *to December* 31, 1808.

To Amount of Donations and Life Subscriptions			£3843	2	3	
To Amount of Annual Subscriptions			531	0	0	
						4374 2 3
By Cash paid for printing and dispersing Accounts of the Objects of the Institution, and for incidental Charges: viz.						
Advertisements, and Insertions in Newspapers	£126	14 6				
Printing 80,000 summary Accounts of the Objects of the Institution, and publishing the same generally in all the periodical Works	128	5 3				
Printing the Reports of the Directors, paper for ditto, Stationary, and various other Charges	262	6 9				
Porterage of Reports, and Carriage to all parts of the United Kingdom; Postages, Hire of Rooms, &c.	153	2 6				
			670	9	0	
By Cash paid Travelling Expenses, Board, Education, Clothing, and Passage-Money to Africa, of three African Youths			286	18	5	
By Cash paid Freight and Charges on Cotton Seed, from America to England, and from England to Sierra Leone	141	5 10				
Cost of Cotton Gins, Hemp Hackles, and Plants, sent to Sierra Leone; including Freight and Charges	323	13 10				
			464	19	8	
By Cash paid Clerks for their Services in writing, packing, and transmitting Reports, and transacting, the other Business of the Institution			60	0	0	
By Cash paid on collecting Subscriptions to 25th March 1808			68	1	3	
By Purchase of Exchequer Bills			2015	13	3	
By Cash in hand			159	1	8	
By Arrears of Subscriptions (a great part of which has since been paid)			648	19	0	
						4374 2 3

To Cash in hand (brought down)	159	1	8
Exchequer Bills	2015	13	3
Arrears of Subscriptions	648	19	0
	£2823	13	11

APPENDIX.

G.

Directions for the Culture of Cotton in Africa.

COTTON grows in any soil that is not over moist. The common opinion, however, that it flourishes most in barren or impoverished land, is erroneous. It will, doubtless, grow in thin arid soils, not exhausted by previous cultivation; yet there cannot be a doubt that it will prove more productive in good or middling land, consisting of a loose dry mould, free from clay or marl. If the inclination of the land be sufficient to carry off the water, the labour of trenching and draining, which is necessary in level lands, will be saved. As no plant requires so little rain as Cotton, the close vicinity of high mountains is injurious to it, while it is beneficial to the Coffee. On the other hand, the saline air of the sea-shore, which generally destroys Coffee, is favourable to Cotton.

The land for Cotton must be cleared in the dry season; and the operations should commence in sufficient time to allow the wood and brush, which have been cut down, to dry so as to be burned before the rains set in. The process of clearing need not to be described. It would, however, be a great improvement of the method which prevails in Africa, if the underwood and small wood were grubbed out, and the large wood were not only cut down, but its branches lopped off, and its trunk also cut into such logs as

may be easily removed, and heaped together for burning. The more completely the ground is cleared, the more productive is the Cotton likely to be. It certainly, however, would not answer to grub out the larger stumps and roots: they must be left to rot, which they will do in a few years.

In situations where the rains are not violent, the Cotton Seed is generally put into the ground at an early period of the rainy season. But in places differently circumstanced, this operation is deferred till the rains are within a month or two of their termination; with a view both to guard against an over-luxuriant vegetation, whereby the plants might exhaust their strength in branches and leaves, and to avoid the injurious consequences of rain at the time the blossoms are appearing and the pods forming. In Africa, the best time for planting the seed must be regulated by experience, and by the result of experiments to be made at all seasons from March to September; but the earlier the seed can *safely* be sown the better.

In Georgia and Carolina considerable labour is bestowed in plowing and harrowing the ground, and forming ridges, raised pretty high, with trenches between. This, no doubt, assists vegetation, and at the same time serves to carry off the water from the flat lands. The same thing is done, though less carefully, with hoes, in Demerara and Berbice: but it is seldom done in the West-India Islands. There, however, the fields are regularly laid out, and the holes opened in straight lines. The distance between the holes varies from five feet in poor soils to eight feet in rich soils. The holes are made by loosening the earth for about eight or nine inches or a foot square, and five or six inches deep. From six to fifteen seeds, spread longitudinally, may be put into each hole, and covered over lightly with earth, not above one or two inches deep at most. The more moist the ground is, the more lightly should the seed be covered, otherwise it will be apt to rot. The plants will generally shew themselves in from five to nine days, but sometimes not before fourteen. When they have four distinct leaves, half the number in each hole may be drawn, and

these must afterwards be gradually reduced, until only one, and that the most vigorous and healthy plant, is left in each hole. For the first six weeks, the plants are of slow growth, and very tender; and they must be carefully kept clear of weeds until they become of a sufficient size to suppress all extraneous growth. It would be of great service also that the earth should be occasionally drawn up about the roots, until the blossoms appear, when this operation is no longer necessary. At the end of six weeks, if not before, the plants, if luxuriant, ought to be topped or pruned, by breaking or cutting off an inch or more from the end of each shoot, which makes the stems spread and throw out a greater number of branches. And this operation, if the plants are very luxuriant, will require to be performed a second, or even a third time, with a knife, on the stem and branches.

The blossoms generally appear in about eighty days after the seed has been planted, and sometimes later; and the first pods arrive at maturity in about three months from that time. The blossom of the green seed, when it first appears, which is generally in the morning, is white; and remains of that colour for the first twelve hours; but it changes the following night to a beautiful crimson, and drops off within thirty-six hours of its first appearance. That of the Black Seed, or Sea Island, undergoes the same change with the green, but when it first comes out it is of a deep yellow colour.

The Cotton should be fully blown before it is picked. This may be ascertained by its separating *easily* from the pod or husk. When it adheres to the pod, and must be forced from it, the Cotton will be of an inferior quality. Great care should be taken to gather it as free from trash or dirt of any kind as possible, which will save much trouble afterwards in the cleaning. Cotton ought not to be picked after rain, or while wet, as in that case it will be stained and of little value. In gathering the crop, particular care should be taken to keep the stained and dirty Cotton separate from the more perfect, which may be done

by each labourer having two bags, one for the stained and inferior, the other for the good Cotton. The value of the latter would thus be greatly increased; and even the inferior would always find a market in England.

The next operation is that of separating the Cotton Wool from the seed. Of all the modes of effecting this, *hand-picking* is doubtless the best; because the most favourable state in which Cotton can be for all manufacturing purposes, is, with the exception of being freed from the seed, that in which it is gathered from the plant. Whatever serves to entangle or mat the fibres, is injurious; because, when matted, they require in carding a greater force to separate them; and the effect of this is, to break the staple, and otherwise to produce waste, and inconvenience to the manufacturer; besides which, a fine, clear, even thread, can hardly ever be produced from matted Cotton.

The process of separating the seed from the Cotton Wool by the hand is in general attended with so much expense as to be impracticable; though in Africa, perhaps, from the cheapness of labour, the difficulty may be less. Machines have therefore been substituted for this purpose, called Gins, of which the common Foot Gin is probably at present the best for Africa. There is another kind calculated to work by cattle, wind, or water, which may hereafter be introduced with advantage, but would be found too expensive and complicated at first.

The *Black* Seed, being loosely attached to the wool, is easily separated by the Gin, without injury to the staple. The *Green* Seed, on the contrary, adheres so closely to the wool, that it can only be separated by a Saw Gin, which cuts the staple, and depreciates the Cotton nearly one-half; but if *hand-picked* it would be more valuable. The Green Seed is more productive than the Black; but the wool of the latter is of considerably higher value. It is hardly necessary to observe, that that mode of ginning is to be preferred which tends least to break the seeds and entangle the fibres of the Cotton.

After the Cotton has been ginned, it should be carefully

examined, and freed from all motes, broken seeds, stained wool, &c. as its value in Europe depends much on the condition in which it is packed. The usual mode of packing is this:—A bag is suspended through a round hole in the floor of the Cotton-house, its mouth having been previously distended by a hoop. Into this bag the Cotton is thrown by small quantities, and pressed down by a stout man, standing in the bag, with a pretty heavy pestle of hard wood, nearly of this shape:——▢ From 2¼ cwt. to 2½ should be compressed into five yards of bagging.

In America four acres of Cotton and four acres of Provisions are generally the proportion planted for each labourer, and which, therefore, each labourer is supposed capable of managing. To pick 50lb. of Cotton in a day is considered as a fair task for one person.

The plants should be cut down every year within three or four inches of the ground. The time for doing this, which must be in the rainy season, ought to be regulated by the same circumstances which regulate the planting of the seed at first; and the subsequent management in this case will also be the same as has been already pointed out in the case of plants from the seed. It would be a great advantage, if every third, fourth, or fifth year at farthest, the plants were grubbed out, and their places supplied by means of fresh seed brought from a distance. This would prevent the Cotton from degenerating, which it never fails to do when it has been propagated in the same ground for many years without a change of seed, and would of course preserve its quality and maintain its reputation in the European markets.

Great care should be taken to prevent a mixture of the different kinds of seed in planting. Each kind should be kept perfectly distinct.

The process called *switching*, or beating the dirt out of the Cotton, by means of sticks, ought, if possible, never to be resorted to. The necessity of having recourse to this expedient, which can only arise from previous negligence,

ought to be obviated by the means already pointed out: it deteriorates the quality, and consequently lowers the price of the Cotton.

In the gathering and hand-picking, and even ginning of Cotton, great use may be made both of young children and infirm people, who are incapable of exertion of any other kind.

H.

IN a representation made to the Board of Directors by merchants concerned in the trade to Africa, it is affirmed, that "the heavy duties laid on some of the articles imported from Africa form a great obstacle to the importation of them, and prevent many vessels being sent which would go if the duties were lower." It is added, that, "since the Abolition of the Slave Trade, the Africans are at a loss how to pay us for our manufactures on many parts of the Coast, or they would take ten times the quantity. In the article of Palm Oil, when the duty was laid on, it was considered as a drug; but as it is now become a necessary ingredient in making Yellow Soap, which pays Government a considerable duty when manufactured, the oil should only pay the same duty as Tallow from Russia. At present it pays 12s. 2d. 7-20ths per cwt. which, in time of peace, is one-fourth of its value. The duty on Guinea Grains is much too high. Mr. W—— lately paid 640*l.* of duty on a parcel which only sold for 340*l.*"

Table shewing the Gross Value (including Duty) of the different Articles imported into this Country from Africa, with the Duty payable on each.

Articles.	Gross Value.	Duty.
Cotton Wool	1s. 6d. to 3s. per lb.	—25s. 3¾d. p. 100lb.*
Barwood	†12*l.* to 28*l.* per ton.	—31s. 8½d. per ton.
Camwood	†25*l.* to 55*l.* per ton.	—32s. 0½d. per ton.
Grains of Guinea or Malaguetta Pepper	†65s. to 90s. p. cwt.	—38s. 0½d. per cwt.
Gum Copal	1s. 6d. to 4s. 6d. p. lb.	—1s. 1$\frac{7}{10}$d. per lb.
Gum Senegal	95s. to 110s. p. cwt.	—5s. 8d. per cwt.
Ebony	†12*l.* to 22*l.* per ton.	—17s. 3$\frac{3}{10}$d. per ton.
Elephants' Teeth.....	‡12*l.* to 35*l.* per cwt.	—63s. 10$\frac{1}{10}$d. p. cwt.
Palm Oil.....	†45s. to 75s. per cwt.	—12s. 2$\frac{7}{10}$d. p. cwt.
Bird Pepper	4d. to 8d. per lb.	—5$\frac{3}{10}$d. per lb.
Bees' Wax	†150s. to 210s. p. cwt.	—51s. 4d. per cwt.
Ginger.....	75s. to 85s. p. cwt.	—**43s. 4$\frac{7}{10}$d. p. cwt.
Unrated Wood		27*l.* 8s. 4d. per cent. ad valorem.
Coffee		Customs 3d. p. lb. Excise 2s. p. lb. ††

* The duty payable on British Plantation, East-Indian, and Turkey Cotton Wool, is only 16*s.* 10½d. per 100lb.

† The price first mentioned is about the usual price in time of peace; that last mentioned is the price to which the article occasionally rises in time of war.

‡ The price of this article varies according to its size: the larger teeth bringing 30*l.* and upwards per cwt. The small teeth, called Scrivellas, from 12*l.* to 20*l.* per cwt.

** The duty payable on British Plantation Ginger is only 19s. 0½d. per cwt.

†† The Excise on West-Indian Coffee is only 3d. per lb.; on East-Indian Java, Bourbon, and Mocha Coffee, only 6d. per lb.

I.

Extract of a Communication from WILLIAM ROSCOE, *Esq. of Liverpool, to His Royal Highness the* DUKE *of* GLOUCESTER, *dated 20th March,* 1809.

"IN order most effectually to promote the beneficent purposes which the African Institution has in view, it seems extremely desirable that the spirit of interchange and traffic, which has been excited in the inhabitants of Africa by means of the Slave Trade, should not be suffered to expire, but should, if possible, be directed into other channels; and that, instead of trading in their own species, they should be encouraged in the cultivation and production of such useful articles, of a fair and legitimate trade, as may supply them in return with European productions, and continue a peaceable and advantageous commerce between two quarters of the world so eminently calculated to be of use to each other.

"This intercourse is not only highly desirable in itself, but would in its consequences be found, in all probability, to be the most likely method of terminating the great object already so happily begun, and wholly abolishing the Trade in Slaves, which yet continues to be carried on with other countries on some parts of the Coast. For if the inhabitants can once be convinced that the native productions of their soil and country will obtain them, in exchange, the articles of which they stand in need, it cannot be supposed that they will long resort to such dangerous and destructive expedients for obtaining them, as were requisite under the system of the Slave Trade.

"Hence it appears, that one of the first objects of the Institution should be, to encourage, as much as possible, a fair and peaceable traffic with the natives of Africa; by inciting individuals in this country to keep up an intercourse equal to, and if possible greater than, that which existed during the continuance of the Slave Trade. It is a primary

rule of the Institution not to engage as a Body in any trade whatever; a circumstance which peculiarly qualifies it to afford the most disinterested and effectual assistance to those who engage in the Trade; as it precludes the possibility of all jealousies and separate interests, and unites the advantages of the individual with the great and salutary objects which the Institution has in view.

"In considering, then, in what manner those objects may be best attained, it seems necessary, in the first place, that the Institution should be furnished with accurate information of the state of the traffic between this country and Africa, from the time of the Abolition of the Slave Trade, in May 1807, to the present time, in order that they may ascertain the foundation upon which their exertions are to be built, and may perceive in what manner they can most effectually encourage a more beneficial and extensive intercourse.

"This information it will be the chief object of the present communication to supply, as far as respects the town of Liverpool, where the principal part of the trade to Africa is still carried on. The union of this with similar information from other ports *, would enable the Institution to ascertain the present extent of the trade, and give just grounds to hope that such trade may not only tend to the advantage and civilization of Africa, but be found an additional source of wealth and prosperity to our own country.

"In the paper which accompanies this, will be found *a List of the Ships cleared out at Liverpool for Africa, from 1st of May* 1807, *to* 31*st of Dec.* 1808, with what are called general cargoes, for the purchase of African produce; known before the Abolition under the term of *a dead cargo.* These vessels amount to twenty-four in number, and are generally of the burthen of from 150 to 300 tons; of these a considerable part are not yet returned.

"The paper † annexed contains an account of the goods

* See Appendix, K.

† Three tons of Elephants' Teeth, and 7172 Teeth, the weight of which is not given; 838 casks of Palm Oil: 176½ tons of Barwood, and 4590 pieces,

and produce imported into Liverpool direct from the Coast of Africa, from June 1807, to the present month of March 1809. If the quantity thus imported appears small in proportion to the ships employed in the trade, it must be observed, that it contains the cargoes of only thirteen vessels, of which nine only are included in the former list; the other four, which arrived in June and July 1807, having sailed for dead cargoes before the Abolition of the Slave Trade took place.

"Besides the African produce thus imported, a considerable quantity has been brought circuitously, by way of Jamaica, &c. by vessels which were allowed to finish their voyages, or which have been employed to bring home such African produce as had found its way to the West Indies before the Abolition of the Slave Trade. An account of the goods thus imported will be found below*.

"Upon these papers, various suggestions will doubtless occur to the Directors of the Institution. It may not, however, be improper to observe, that many of the articles mentioned in these lists are of considerable use in the arts and manufactures of this country; and if they could be brought to market on reasonable terms, would find an almost unlimited extent of sale. Among these may be enumerated Palm Oil, which is become of great use in the manufacture of Soap, and is produced on the coast of Africa in great plenty; but the heavy duty of 12*l.* and upwards per ton, prevents its being so generally employed in this manufacture as it otherwise most probably would be. The same may be said of various other articles, which, it will be seen, are subject to heavy duties."

the weight of which is not given; 96 tons of Camwood; 50 barrels of Gum Gulacum; 90 tons of Gum Senegal; 19 casks of Gum Arabic; 33 casks of Gum Copal; and 22 tons of Malaguetta Pepper.

*Imported from Jamaica, &c.: Four tons and a half of Elephants' Teeth and 7863 Teeth, the weight of which is not given; 611 casks of Palm Oil; 177 tons of Barwood, and 6465 pieces of which the weight is not given; 133½ tons of Camwood; 94 casks of Malaguetta Pepper; and 15 tons of Ebony.

"Incalculable benefits may also arise to both countries, by perseverance in the excellent and judicious plan, already adopted by the Institution, of supplying the natives of Africa with such seeds and plants as are suitable to the climate, and may produce useful and valuable articles of merchandize; and if, whilst they are thus promoting a friendly intercourse between distant countries, the Institution should avail itself of the opportunities such intercourse will continually afford, to conciliate the dispositions, improve the faculties, and promote the happiness of the long-injured inhabitants of Africa, they will fulfil the laudable and beneficent purposes of their union, and entitle themselves to be ranked amongst the best friends of the human race."

K.

THE following is an Account of the Importations into the Port of London from the Coast of Africa, between the 1st of January 1806, and the 1st of March 1809; as far as the same can be made out*—viz.: 4200 dozen of Can-

* There is reason to believe that the quantity has been considerably more than is here stated. The house of Swanzy, Bynon, & Co., alone have imported into London, in the last ten months, 8749 ounces of Gold Dust; 915 cwt. of Ivory; 70 tons of Malaguetta Pepper; 97 tons of Camwood: 40 cwt. of Bees' Wax, and 60 cwt. of Palm Oil. They employ five vessels, from 100 to 200 tons, in the direct trade between this country and Africa, and five more, from 50 to 80 tons, in the coast trade of Africa. In a letter, containing the above information, they state, that "of some of the products of Africa, a much larger quantity might be imported were the duties less; particularly Guinea Grains, and Palm Oil. The duty on the former amounts to a prohibition. If the duty were reduced one-half, and

skins; 32,300 dozen of Goat-skins; 255 cwt. and 1059 serons (not weighed) of Almonds: 3150 cwt. besides 180 serons and 59 casks (not weighed) of Gum Arabic; 4580 cwt. of Gum Senegal; 310 cwt. of Gum Copal; 48 cwt. of Gum Sandarac; 360lb. of Honey; 1300 cwt. of Palm Oil; 11,600lb. of Cotton; 4870 Ox-hides; 37 tons of Ebony; 278 tons of Camwood; 32 tons of Redwood; 1515 cwt. of Ivory; 736 cwt. besides 30 pipes and 320 serons (not weighed) of Bees' Wax; 1900 cwt. of Malaguetta Pepper, or Guinea Grains; 4350 lb. of Worm-seed; and a small quantity of Millet-seed, Dates, Ginger, Citron, and Ostrich Feathers.

I.

The following are Clauses of Acts of Parliament on the Subject of Insuring Slaves, or Slave Ships: viz.

46 *Geo. III. Cap.* 52. § 7.

"And be it further enacted, That, from and after the said first day of January one thousand eight hundred and seven, if any of his Majesty's subjects, or any person or persons resident within this United Kingdom, or within any of the Islands, Colonies, Dominions, or Territories thereunto belonging, shall knowingly and wilfully insure, or cause or procure to be insured, any Ship, Vessel, Slaves, Goods or

Palm Oil placed on the footing of Tallow, the importation would be in such quantity as would amply compensate for the reduction of duty: and it would further materially tend to the increase of trade and civilisation in Africa, if the duties on the various productions of that country were placed on the same scale with those on similar articles imported from the most favoured countries.

Commodities whatsoever, employed or to be employed in the trading in, or carrying of Slaves from Africa or elsewhere, to any Island, Colony, Territory, or Place belonging to or under the dominion of any foreign Sovereign or State, or to any of the said Settlements, Islands, Colonies or Plantations, which have been surrendered to his Majesty's arms during the present war (except such limited and licensed trade to the latter as is by the said Order in Council and this present Act allowed), any person or persons so insuring or causing or procuring any such Insurance to be made, shall forfeit and pay for every such offence the sum of five hundred pounds; and every such Insurance shall be absolutely null and void."

47 Geo. III. Cap. 36. § 5.

"And be it further enacted, That, from and after the said first day of May one thousand eight hundred and seven, all Insurances whatsoever to be effected upon or in respect to any of the trading, dealing, carrying, removing, transhipping, or other transactions by this Act prohibited, shall be also prohibited and declared to be unlawful; and if any of his Majesty's subjects, or any person or persons resident within this United Kingdom, or within any of the Islands, Colonies, Dominions, or Territories thereunto belonging, or in his Majesty's possession or occupation, shall knowingly and wilfully subscribe, effect, or make, or cause or procure to be subscribed, effected, or made, any such unlawful Insurances or Insurance, he or they shall forfeit and pay for every such offence the sum of one hundred pounds for every such Insurance, and also treble the amount paid or agreed to be paid as the premium of any such insurance; the one moiety thereof to the use of his Majesty, his heirs and successors, and the other moiety to the use of any person who shall inform, sue, and prosecute for the same."

M.

Extracts of Letters from the GOVERNOR *of* SIERRA LEONE *to the* SECRETARY, *dated in May*, 1808.

"THE principal nation to the northward, with which we have any connection, is the Mandingo. At present it is involved in a dispute between two leading families; that of Findamoodo of Wonkapong, a true Mandingo, and that of Tanany, who is descended partly from the Bulloms (the ancient inhabitants of the country), and partly from the Mandingoes, who dispossessed them. Were it not for these divisions, this people would be very powerful. They are Mahometans, and are rapidly extending their influence around us. We have always been on friendly terms with them; but their ambitious and intriguing spirit, their numbers and courage, would make them very formidable, were it not for their intestine jealousies, and their frequent fears of insurrection among their slaves.

"To the east and north-east of the Mandingo country lie the Foulahs, a wide-extended and powerful nation. They, also, are Mahometans, and have been continually at war with the petty heathen states which surround them. This circumstance, and some gross acts of treachery attributed to them, apparently prevent them from extending their religion, and increasing their influence, in proportion to the Mandingoes, though they are, beyond comparison, more numerous and powerful. Their trade, which usually is very considerable, is wholly engrossed by the factories in the Rio Pongas. The route, however, from their capital city, Teemboo, to the upper branches of this river, is shorter than that to the Rio Pongas; but the rude dispositions of the inhabitants of the intermediate countries have hitherto rendered unsuccessful all efforts to open a direct intercourse with them. Nevertheless, the attempt is still continued. It is reported, that last year they were pretty

severely beaten, the retreat of their army cut off, and the king himself nearly made prisoner, by the people of Sulima; a small country situated south-east of Teemboo. Whether this be true or not, I believe it to be a fact that all trade with the Foulah country has been suspended for about four months. Between these nations and the colony are many unconnected and independent tribes, belonging to the Soosoo, Bullom, and Timmaney Nations. We are on friendly terms with all with whom we have any intercourse.

"A war has been faintly carried on, for several years, among the natives of the Timmaney Nations who inhabit the upper branches of the Sierra Leone River. The mediation of this Government has lately been requested, in order to terminate it. We are using our best endeavours for this purpose, with good hope of success.

"To the south-east the country is inhabited entirely by the Bullom People, for a great distance. A very destructive war raged there some time since; but a truce was concluded, about three years ago, through our mediation, which continues hitherto unbroken.

"Our nearest neighbours, who some years ago twice attacked the Colony, and with whom peace was not concluded till last July, are now on the most friendly terms with us.

"There can be no doubt but that the influence of the Colony has of late rapidly increased."

"I have very little farther to say respecting the effects of the Abolition: our dispute with America has probably done more towards carrying it into full effect, than all other measures put together. The traders to the northward, I hear, still buy the few Slaves that are offered to them, hoping for some change in their favour."

"There is scarcely any thing for which I thank you more sincerely, than Dr. BELL's book. We cannot put in practice his whole system, for want of Superintendants*; but

* Superintendants are now supplied by means of the African Youths lately sent to the Colony.

West Indies, or in other countries, here we have an opportunity of viewing him in his genuine state. I have had occasion to admire, and every day I behold among them, men of great strength of mind and admirably quick perception. In a general sense, the intellectual powers of the African is as rich as the soil, and, with the same attention, could be made as fertile." "Some, who have received a narrow education in England, have shewn proofs of a quick and extensive genius, and, with few exceptions, have become an ornament to society. Among our neighbours, the Dutch and Danes, we behold persons, educated by means of schools established in the country, who give proof of strong intellectual powers.

"When I view the moral state of the African, a number of deformities are seen, which every day may now tend to correct." "It is well known, that here the dearest objects of regard have often fallen victims to the fury of irreligion, and the allurements held out by a traffic, the loss of which the African, I firmly believe, has no cause to lament. The same disposition remains among them, and would be clearly manifested to-morrow, if other powers renewed the Slave Trade. I will therefore beg leave to say, that this would be a most fit season to introduce means of civilization and culture." "For the moral condition of the African could be reformed with less difficulty now than in a time of peace."

"Our forts in this part of Africa embrace a line of coast extending from Apollonia to Whydah, a distance of about 350 miles by land. The natives of both these kingdoms are under a despotic government, particularly the latter."— "But the people with whose condition I am best acquainted are the Fantees, and other states that adopt similar laws and customs. They possess an extent of coast from Dick's Cove to Accra, and are under a government compounded of strange materials."—"Before the late visit from the king of Asiantee, the administration of public affairs was regulated and decided by three classes of men,—Braffaes, Pynins, and Fetishmen. The Braffaes *were* a body (for very few of them are now in being—the Asiantees nearly extirpated the

whole) that made and distributed laws with an absolute authority. When a Braffae walked abroad, he carried with him fear and terror. Although he could not command the life of a Fantee—and in this he only differed from the most despotic power—yet his property was at his mercy: whatever necessaries he stood in need of must be supplied by an individual or the public. From the decision of a Braffae there was no appeal, neither did it admit of the interposition of any of the other branches; but it was only the richer part of the state that could call in the aid of a court of Braffaes: they required to be well fed, and better paid; and woe unto the party that did not act in a liberal and even profuse manner! They generally lost their cause, and half of the award was left for their judges.

"In every respectable town there are men established for the administration of justice, or, more properly, for executing and promulgating the laws, called Pynins, which, in a literal sense, means the elders of the people. These men are chosen by the majority of the public. Sometimes they succeed by hereditary right: in this case, if any deficiency is perceived in their legal knowledge, their authority is suspended, and others appointed by the public voice. A court of Pynins may be justly called a court of equity; and is the only one wherein a Fantee may expect a clear examination into his case, and an impartial distribution of justice."—"Their laws are particularly severe, as they have a general tendency to slavery. Murder is the only crime that does not meet with its merited punishment. Trivial offences are delayed, by which means they accumulate into what are considered serious crimes, and punished accordingly. If a person, for instance, through accident or design, was to kill a hen, no immediate notice probably would be taken of it, unless the person committing the offence should sue the party injured with presents; in which case forgiveness is granted. But if this is neglected, not only the person, but a part of his family, are liable to become Slaves, or pay a handsome sum for their redemption. For the action is of this kind; the said hen would have been prolific,

and her offspring would have likewise produced numbers, whereby the wealth of the owner would have been increased; and a sum adequate to this increase must be paid before a restitution is acknowledged.

"There is no part of the Fantee government where imbecility is more clearly seen, than in the abominable practice of Panyaring, which is an indulgence granted to seize any person or persons for the crimes of another; principally that of debt. By this distressing system, whole families, nay villages, have been sold and rendered desolate. When the Slave Trade was in being, this horrid practice was carried on with great fury, and it is continued to this day. If the offender is given up, panyaring ceases."

"The Fetishmen are a set of men full of cunning and deceit, and considered along the Coast with an awful reverence, as the ministers of their deities; and, where monarchy does not exist, their power is great. They industriously scatter abroad the seed of superstition, to the end that they may be considered with admiration, and consulted on every occasion of public or domestic calamity. The word Fetish signifies, in its literal sense, a supernatural power: it is also used in this country as the name of their deities or demons, whether ideal or corporeal. Their charms, or amulets, bear the same signification. In short, whatever is considered by them to possess the power of good or evil, is denominated Fetish. According to Dalzel, the tiger is worshipped at Dahomy; the snake at Whydah: the alligator and hyena are the Fetishes of some parts of the Coast. Different families have sometimes different Fetishes. A piece of carved wood besmeared with the yolk of an egg or palm-oil, is held in as much veneration as the image of the holy Virgin in some countries of Europe. Sentences of the Alcoran, carefully incased, are with some held in high estimation; while others prefer the horn of a goat, or the tooth of a tiger. When we consider the distress which superstition and its concomitants occasion in this wretched country, our interest and pity are strongly excited. Where no absolute government exists, Fetish is consulted on almost every

occasion: their deity is easily bribed; and the man of indigent circumstances is sure to be the sufferer. For in general their deity is avaricious; and whoever is most profuse in gifts and sacrifices, is sure to be held in favour with his god; but it is the Fetishmen who take the whole, and enrich themselves at the expense of their credulous neighbours. If implicit obedience is not paid them, they have recourse to horrid expedients; and should forgiveness be implored, the avenging Fetish expects a handsome present before he is reconciled."

The writer then proceeds to notice, at some length, the means which he would recommend for improving the condition of Africa. Among these he specifies schools, which should convey a knowledge of the elementary branches of learning; as reading, writing, and accounts; and should combine with this, instruction in agriculture and other useful arts. He likewise recommends the introduction of European implements of husbandry, in place of the hoe and bill.

"I am pretty well convinced," he adds, that "little can be accomplished without the benefit of schools, which must be on an extensive plan."

"The children of the most distinguished and respectable families are to be chosen for instruction, in preference to those of less note: as by their influence and authority, when they come of age, the designs of the Institution would be materially extended. The kings of Apollonia, Dahomy, and Asiantee, would willingly send one or two of their children; and the Caboccers, and different persons of respectability, would follow the same plan. Indeed, every person of consequence would cheerfully submit to having his child separated from him, for the purpose of receiving knowledge that would put him on a footing with a White."

"The forts upon this coast are governed by English, Dutch, and Danes; and, from the general state of affairs, it may be supposed, that two powers out of the three are in a forlorn condition; but by a rigid economy, and good organization, their establishments are supported with a re-

spectability beyond what could be conceived in England. Independent of Christiansborg Castle, the Danes have three strong forts; two of them on the banks of the Rio Volta, a river of some magnitude, but accessible only to small vessels, and that in the dry season. Among the Danes, we perceive the great progress that cultivation has made since their abandonment of the Slave Trade. Civilization, likewise, is making rapid strides. The Governor in Chief of his Danish Majesty's Settlements, Mr. Schonning, has a most extensive plantation, from ten to fifteen miles, in an inland direction, from Christiansborg, where improvements are carried on without molestation; but it is to be considered, that the country is governed by a chief in some measure tributary to the king of Asiantee, who is a great encourager of trade and industry. The Danes have sent to Europe specimens of Cotton and Coffee, and attempts are making to manufacture Indigo: the plants grow spontaneously on many parts of the Coast. The Danes are happily situated for cultivation: they live in the confines of a luxuriant country; and although the Volta does not discharge itself freely into the sea, whereby it is rendered inaccessible to vessels of burden, yet this disadvantage is amply requited by its overflowing its banks after the periodical rains, which causes a considerable tract of country to be richly manured. Not only the Volta, but the entrance to every river on the Gold Coast, is in a great measure concealed by rocks or sandbanks, which may be considered unfavourable in a commercial view, so far as an ingress for shipping is prevented; but these rivers are favourable for inland navigation."

"The Slave Trade is continued among the Dutch in a trifling degree: the only opportunity of disposing of Slaves is to the Portugueze. Their chief settlement, St. George del Mina, is the first in this country for strength, beauty, and convenience. It is admirably situated at the mouth of a small river, which runs nearly parallel with the sea, so that the Castle may be said to stand on a peninsula. It is a quadrangular building, surrounded with high walls, and mounted with brass ordnance. Towards the tower it is

strengthened by a double ditch, over which are two draw-bridges. On the hill of St. Jago is a compact fort, within the range of musket shot from the Castle called Conraadsborg:—it is the key to Elmina."

"Here is an extensive garden: there is also a most beneficent institution kept up, namely, an Orphan School, for the benefit of children whose parents have died in the service. Upon the whole, Elmina and the places near it are kept in a high state of improvement; and it would be a great acquisition towards the civilization of this part of Africa, as with it Fort Anthony at Axim, Orange Fort at Succondee, and Fort Sebestian at Chamah (a place of great importance) would fall.

"In addition to Elmina, Conraadsborg, and those before mentioned, the Dutch have Fort Nassau at Mauree, Fort Amsterdam at Cormantyne, and five other forts of less importance. The Dutch have not gone beyond culinary productions; but in this sort of cultivation they hold a pre-eminence. They are fond of building, and this disposition is encouraged by the facility with which they can build—lime, stone, and timber being abundant; and, among upwards of five hundred Slaves, they have excellent artificers.

"We hold an advantage beyond our neighbours—that of commanding a greater extent of sea-coast."—"We have no settlement on the borders of any considerable river, which prevents our having a more easy access to states inland of us; but from the good understanding subsisting with men of consequence, leave would be readily given to admit the traveller or the naturalist."

"I will here take the liberty of relating what has been told us by one of those men called Moors, who, with many others of his tribe, was with the king of Asiantee in his late expedition, and formed part of his army. This person was considered with much respect. He was a native of Lasina, a kingdom bordering on Medina, and which lies in a south-east direction from Tombuctoo. He has been at Mecca and Tunis, and pointed out those places on the map. He de-

scribed to us the mode of travelling across the Great Desert. He had never been at Tombuctoo, or, as he pronounced it, Tombut, but some of his countrymen had; and they agreed in saying that it was a place of great trade and much resorted to, and that it was enclosed by a wall; and that at Kabia, which they said was a short day's journey from Tombuctoo, the Niger is of considerable breadth. This description bears such a strong resemblance to the account given to Mr. Park, that little doubt can be attached to the information of this man. He said the Niger continues its course through Kasina, and keeps an E. S. E. or S. E. direction, allowing for various windings, till at length it forms a large lake, or, as he called it, a great sea. Circumstances prevented me from gaining further information from this extraordinary traveller."

THE END.

FOURTH

REPORT

OF THE

DIRECTORS

OF THE

AFRICAN INSTITUTION,

READ

AT THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING ON THE 28th OF MARCH, 1810.

TO WHICH IS ADDED,

AN APPENDIX.

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AFRICAN INSTITUTION.

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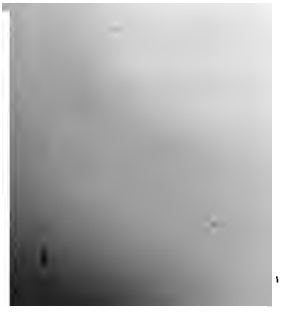

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FOURTH REPORT,

&c. &c.

IN their former Reports, the Directors have taken pains to impress the Members of the Institution with this idea; that the success of any plan which may be devised for the improvement of Africa will depend upon the degree in which the trade in Slaves is generally suppressed. It has appeared to them, that without security of person and property, no adequate stimulus can be given to industry; and consequently, that no progress in the great work of civilization can fairly be expected. And it is most obvious, that while a considerable Slave Trade is suffered to exist, such security is unattainable.

The Directors were sanguine in hoping, that ere this time something effectual would have been done, to limit the range of this destructive traffic, which has hitherto impeded the success of every attempt to do good to Africa. But this expectation has not been realised. No foreign states have hitherto followed the example set them by the Legislatures of Great Britain and of the United

States of America; while the flags of Spain and of Sweden (which, till within the last two years, had scarcely ever visited the African Coast) have of late been extensively employed in covering and protecting a trade in Slaves, in which, it is believed, that the subjects of these countries have little or no direct interest.

Nor is this all. It has been discovered, that, in defiance of all the penalties imposed by Act of Parliament, vessels under foreign flags have been fitted out in the ports of Liverpool and London, for the purpose of carrying Slaves from the Coast of Africa to the Spanish and Portuguese Settlements in America; and that several adventures of this description have actually been completed.

The persons, however, who are by far the most deeply engaged in this nefarious traffic, appear to be citizens of the United States of America. These shelter themselves from the penal consequences of their criminal conduct, by means of a nominal sale both of ship and cargo at some Spanish or Swedish port—(the Havannah, for example, or the island of St. Bartholomew). They are thus put in a capacity to use the flags of these states; and, so disguised, have carried on their slave-trading speculations, during the last year, to an enormous extent.

The different communications received by the

Directors from the Coast of Africa, concur in stating, that in the month of October last, the Coast was crowded with vessels, known to be American, trading for Slaves under Spanish and Swedish flags. The Slaves thus procured, it is understood, were afterwards to be carried for sale, either to South America or to the Spanish West Indies. Some cargoes (there is reason to believe), have been landed at St. Bartholomew's, and smuggled thence into English Islands.

The extent to which this evil has unexpectedly and suddenly proceeded, and its obvious influence on all the plans for promoting the civilization of Africa, have induced the Directors, since the last general meeting, to turn a large share of their attention to the best means of restraining or removing it. Besides making the necessary representations, from time to time, to his Majesty's Government, they have taken measures for communicating to the Officers of the Royal Navy distinct information respecting the provisions of the Legislature on this point, and the manner in which those provisions have been eluded; as well as to point out the pecuniary advantages which would accrue to them from a vigorous enforcement of the Abolition Laws.

The Directors trust that they have succeeded in calling the attention of Naval Officers to this subject, and that through their vigilance a con-

siderable effect will soon be produced, in suppressing at least that part of the trade which is carried on in violation of our own laws. These laws, happily, will be found to comprehend a great variety of cases. They apply, not merely to such slave-trading adventures as are owned in the whole or in part by British subjects, or are conducted by British agents, but to all which have originated in a British port, even though foreigners alone are concerned in them, and although the ships employed should call at one or more intermediate ports, and take fresh clearances thence before they proceed to the Coast of Africa.

The Directors were not aware, till lately, of the extent to which this last-mentioned description of illegal speculation has been carried; and they have reason to believe that the officers of the Navy were not only not apprised of it, but that they did not even know that they were authorised to make seizures in such cases. Now that they are made acquainted with the real state of things, it may be hoped that a material check will ere long be given to these illicit practices. The inducement to vigilance on the part of the Navy is considerable; the captors being entitled to the forfeiture of both ship and cargo. And although all Slaves found on board are liberated, yet there is a bounty allowed by Government to the captors, amounting to 40*l.* for each man, 30*l.* for

each woman, and 10*l.* for each child so liberated. Instances have already occurred in which this bounty has been claimed and received.

Besides conveying to the officers of the Navy the information* which was likely to stimulate their exertions in suppressing the contraband Slave Trade, the Directors have kept a watchful eye on the ports from which slave-trading voyages were likely to originate, in the hope of detecting some of those infractions of the law which they had the strongest ground to believe were of frequent occurrence. Their observations and inquiries tended fully to satisfy their own minds, that many such illegal voyages have been undertaken. But that kind of circumstantial evidence which alone could be expected in such cases, though perfectly satisfactory to a person well acquainted with the nature of the Slave Trade, may yet be insufficient ground for legal prosecution. It requires something more direct and palpable, to satisfy a Court and Jury that a particular voyage, as yet only in its commencement, has been undertaken with an intent to trade in Slaves. As in this stage of the business it is the *intention* of the parties which must be proved, the attainment of adequate proof is obviously difficult.

Notwithstanding, however, this difficulty, in a

* See Appendix, O.

case where disguise and concealment are so practicable, and to the parties interested so important, the Directors have so far succeeded in one instance, in obtaining sufficient proof of the intention to trade in Slaves, as to induce the officers of the Customs, under the directions of his Majesty's Government, not only to detain the ship, when on the point of sailing, from Gravesend, on a slave-trading voyage, but afterwards to institute against the parties, in the Court of Exchequer, a prosecution, which has been followed by the condemnation of both ship and cargo; the owners not having thought it prudent to contest the cause. The property has not yet been sold; but the value, as appraised by the officers of the Customs, amounts to upwards of 11,000*l.*; and their appraisement is generally below the real value.

The Directors feel it incumbent on them to state, that, in prosecuting their inquiries into this case, they uniformly experienced, on the part of his Majesty's Government, a prompt attention to their representations, and a cordial disposition to aid their efforts in preventing the infraction of the laws for the abolition of the Slave Trade.

When it is considered that the ship in question (the Commercio de Rio), was destined, as appears from papers found on board, to tear 7 or 800 human beings from their country and connections in Africa, to subject them to the horrors of the

Middle Passage, and afterwards to sell them into interminable bondage in Cuba, the Directors trust that the Society will see enough, in this single effect of its benevolence, to prove the utility of its institution, and to compensate any expense it may have occasioned.

But this benefit, important as it is, is by no means the only good which is likely to flow from the discovery and punishment of this criminal transaction. The event has naturally alarmed the whole body of dealers in Slaves; and, if it should not wholly prevent their malpractices in future, will probably at least diminish their number. It has also thrown much light on the nature of the disguises which they have been in the habit of employing; and, it may reasonably be presumed, has quickened the vigilance of the Custom-house Officers, by affording substantial proof of the pecuniary advantage resulting from such seizures. It has likewise discovered to the Directors facts, which tend to implicate persons of some consideration in society in the guilt of these and similar practices; and to shew in strong colours the malignity and inveteracy of the evil with which the Institution has to contend.

The Directors are unwilling to detain the Meeting with minute details of their proceedings; but they have thought it due to the Subscribers to state thus generally the outlines of a trans-

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portation of Slaves from Africa; and to enter our early and decided protest against the continuance of the practice. This much, at the very least, we may fairly insist upon, that Portugal, or rather Brazil, shall confine her Slave Trade to a particular district of the African Coast; and that her ships shall not be employed in supplying with Slaves any colonies except her own.

With respect to Sweden and Spain, the Directors had hoped, that as neither of these countries had any interests to sacrifice by a formal renunciation of the Slave Trade and a recognition of the principles of its abolition, they might have been prevailed on strictly to interdict the use of their flags to ships engaged in carrying Slaves. But in this hope, also, the Directors have been disappointed. They have had even the mortification to see those flags employed to protect that large share of this traffic which the subjects of the United States are at this moment carrying on, in defiance of the laws of their own country.

It is to be remembered, to the honour of the Government of the United States of America, that it seized an early opportunity of effecting the abolition of this trade, as far as legislative enactments could effect it. America, however, has few or no means of enforcing her own commercial edicts. In despite of those edicts, therefore, her ships are now the great carriers of Slaves, without

any other defence against the penalties, to which as Americans they are liable, than is afforded by the flag, and simulated clearances, of some foreign state.

Had our relations with the United States been such as all must wish them to be, it might have been possible to come to such an arrangement, on this subject, as would speedily have put an end to every vestige of the contraband American Slave Trade. To do this, nothing more seems requisite than an agreement between Great Britain and the United States of America, that each shall be allowed to enforce, by means of naval capture, the abolition laws of the other. To an agreement of this description, the Directors trust that the two Governments will not be indisposed: and no pains have been wanting on the part of the Directors to encourage such a disposition on both sides of the Atlantic. Meanwhile, they feel no small pleasure in being able to state, that both the late and the present American Ministers have manifested, so far as was consistent with the duties of their situation, the most liberal promptitude in complying with the applications which were made to them, for the prevention of this gross abuse of the American flag.

With a view to co-operation in this and other important objects, the Directors have opened a correspondence with the Society in America for

abolishing the Slave Trade and Slavery; and they have been much gratified by the cordiality with which the President of that Society, Dr. Rush, and the Gentlemen who compose its Central Committee, have received their overtures.

Should the two countries return to their former state of amity, which the Directors ardently hope will soon be the case, the happiest effects may be expected from their heartily uniting, not only to condemn the Slave Trade, as they have already done, but concurrently to carry their sentence into complete execution.

The Directors will now proceed to notice what has been further done in the prosecution of the objects of the Institution.

The capture of Senegal, which was effected in the month of July last, by Captain Columbine, of the Navy, and Major Maxwell, the Commandant of Goree, has considerably abridged the facilities enjoyed by the contraband Slave Traders on that part of the Slave Coast. It has also furnished an important inlet both for commerce and civilization; the river Senegal being navigable for several hundred miles, and some of its branches approaching within a short distance of the Niger.

Having received information that the plants of the mulberry tree, which they had transmitted to Africa, had taken root, and were flourishing,

not only at Sierra Leone, but at Goree and Senegal, the Directors procured a considerable number of silk-worms' eggs, which were sent to those places, accompanied with particular directions respecting the proper mode of rearing and managing them *

They have also transmitted to Africa a farther supply of some useful seeds: and likewise the model of a mill for cleaning rice from its husk;—an operation which, through the defect of proper machinery, is performed at present in a very laborious, rude, and imperfect manner. The Directors apprehend that the present inferiority of African rice is chiefly to be attributed to this defect: they will therefore be obliged to any of the friends of the Institution who shall point out the best means of remedying it.

The Directors having applied to Dr. Roxburgh, of Calcutta, for his assistance in obtaining seeds and plants from India, have the satisfaction to state, that they have received the most liberal assurances of his best exertions in favour of the Institution. He has already transmitted to this country, with a view to their propagation in Africa, several valuable seeds, with the requisite instructions for their management †. The Directors are happy in this opportunity of expressing their high

* See Appendix, P. † See Appendix, Q.

sense of the obligations conferred on the Institution by Dr. Roxburgh.

The Directors have drawn the attention of their correspondents in Africa to a discovery (communicated to them by R. H. Marten, Esq., and said to have been lately made in the West Indies) of the practicability of producing excellent rope from the fibres of the plantane tree. They have as yet received no report on this subject from Africa.

Referring the Meeting to what was communicated in the last annual Report, on the subject of a species of hemp, manufactured from the leaves of a particular kind of palm, which abounds in Sierra Leone and its neighbourhood, the Directors have now to add, that one of their Board, Mr. Allen, has lately subjected a small quantity of cord, manufactured from this substance, to experiments calculated to ascertain its strength, as compared with the same length and weight of common hempen cord. The result has been very satisfactory. In five trials, the hempen cord broke with the following weights; viz. In the first, with 44lbs. avoirdupois; in the second, with 41 lbs.; in the third, with 51 lbs.; in the fourth, with 41 lbs.; and in the fifth, with 41 lbs.: while African cord, of the same length and weight, required, to break it, in the first trial, 54 lbs.; in the second, 56 lbs.; in the third, 58 lbs.; in the

fourth, 89 lbs.; and in the fifth, 47 lbs. The average is as follows:—Hempen cord, 43 lbs. 3 fifths; African cord, 53 lbs. 2 fifths; being a difference, in favour of the African cord, of 10 lbs. in 43 lbs.

The Directors noticed, in their last Report, the disadvantages under which the trade of Africa laboured, in consequence of the high duties imposed on the different articles of its produce. A representation to this effect having been made to his Majesty's Government, the matter was taken into their consideration, and a modification of some of those duties has been obtained. The duties on cotton wool, ginger, and coffee, the produce of his Majesty's dominions in Africa, are now the same as those payable on the like articles when imported from the West Indies: and on palm oil, the duty has been reduced, from about 18s. 3d. to 4s. per hundred-weight. On one article—Guinea grains, or Malaguetta pepper—the duty has been doubled; not with a view of increasing the revenue, but of operating as a prohibition of the use of it, as it is supposed to have been extensively employed in the brewing of malt liquor. The Directors, however, have great reason to doubt the existence of the deleterious qualities ascribed to this drug; as they find it to be universally esteemed in Africa one of the most wholesome of spices, and generally used by the natives to season their food.

The Directors have not as yet engaged in any direct attempt to explore the Continent of Africa, principally because no proper means have offered themselves to their notice. It has, however, been communicated to them, that it is the intention of the African Association to send, at an early opportunity, one or more persons from this country, charged with the important object of farther discovery. The Directors have signified their readiness to concur in any eligible measure of this description.

Before the Directors quit this subject, they think it right to advert to a communication which has been made to them by Lieut.-Col. Maxwell, the Commandant of Senegal, respecting the celebrated traveller, Mungo Park, in a letter dated on the 28th of January last, which contains the following passage:—

"I avail myself of an opportunity, by way of Guernsey, to communicate to you the intelligence of the arrival in this Colony of the black man, named Isaaco, who was the guide who conducted Mr. Mungo Park to Sansanding, and whose schoolmaster, who resides there, furnished Mr. Park with a guide to take him to Kassina. This person appears convinced that Mr. Mungo Park is not dead (which God grant!): he says, if it was the case he certainly should have heard of it: not having heard of him, he supposed that he had returned to England.

"To ascertain the certainty of the fate of our intrepid countryman, I have engaged Isaaco to go in search of him, and have furnished him with a present for Mansong, the King of Bambarra, and also with means to defray his travelling expenses; and have promised him a thousand dollars if he finds Mr. Park. He has instructions to proceed without delay to Sego; to present to Mansong the present he has for him; and to beg of him to aid him in his researches. If he cannot procure any certain intelligence of him at Sego, he is to continue his journey to Sansanding; to find out the guide who conducted Mr. Park to Kassina. If there he cannot gain satisfactory information, he is to endeavour to proceed to Tombuctoo and Kassina.

"Isaaco has promised to make every exertion to fulfil the object of his mission, and to use his utmost ability to gain correct information of the fate of the celebrated traveller."

It has been already mentioned, that Commissioners have been appointed by Government to inquire into the state of the African Coast, with a view to the adoption of such measures as may most effectually promote the civilization and improvement of Africa. Their mission was delayed, in consequence of the loss of the Solebay frigate, which was to have attended them on their survey: and it was only in January last that another fri-

gate was dispatched to supply the place of the Solebay. It may be presumed that they have by this time entered on their important labours, as the frigate had reached Goree about the 1st of February.

The information which has been received from Africa, since the last meeting of the Institution, has been less abundant than usual; but the Directors will now state such particulars of it as are likely to prove most interesting to the Subscribers.

Their first extract will be from a letter of Lord Caledon, the Governor of the Cape of Good Hope, dated the 29th May, 1809. His Lordship, who is a Life Governor of the Institution, and warmly interested in its success, writes as follows:—

"From the vague reports of the Colonists, as well as from other causes sufficiently obvious, I conceived it would be highly desirable, if a person were found qualified and willing, to explore the colonial boundary in the north-east direction; and as a medical gentleman of the name of Cowan, proposed himself to me for this purpose, I gave him my sanction, and what assistance I considered necessary for enabling him to execute the design. He left the Cape in September 1808, and, crossing the Orange River, found himself, on the 24th of December, in lat. 24°. 30'., long. 28°. He was at this period resting on the bank of a river called the Meloffo, and had the intention of pro-

ceeding on the following day in a course more northerly; but his ultimate object is to gain Mosambique, or one of the Portuguese Settlements on the Eastern Coast.

"Dr. Cowan describes the country to the northward of Leetakee as being for the most part fertile; and observes, that all the rivers he has hitherto passed run to the west. The reception he met with was invariably hospitable; and in scarcely any instance did the natives appear to mark a suspicion. As he advanced, he found an increased degree of civilization; and represents the wealthy people of one tribe of Barolloos as being possessed of servants, as well as slaves. The ophthalmia was prevalent among these people.

"From all that I have been able to collect, from a worthy missionary of the name of Anderson, I am sanguine in believing that Dr. Cowan will succeed in reaching Mosambique, where I have already paved the way for procuring him a favourable reception."

"I regret very much," his Lordship adds, "that I omitted to make myself acquainted with those points upon which the Institution might wish for particular information; but as it is not improbable that other adventurers may arise, I shall be obliged to you to procure for me the Directions, if such there are, which the Institution furnishes to those in its employment."

His Lordship's request has been complied with; and he has been furnished with copies of the queries drawn up for the purpose of guiding the inquiries of African Travellers*.

In a letter, dated March the 6th, 1809, the Governor of Sierra Leone informs the Directors, that

"Measures have been taken for exciting the attention of the Coast to the cotton seed sent out by the Institution, and a portion of it will be propagated in this Colony at the proper season.

"An experiment has been made of the Mangrove Bark in the Colony, in consequence of the information received from the Institution, in the hands of one of the Nova-Scotians. He reports, that he never saw bark like it [meaning, so good] in America.

"Oxen have been employed in the service of Government with great success, and may probably be applied in many ways which have not hitherto been thought of."

"The plants which arrived from the Institution are, with the exception of a very few, in the most flourishing condition. The only plants which it appears of considerable importance to replace, are the two tea trees, neither of which have succeeded. The mulberry trees have succeeded without exception.

* See Appendix, R.

"In the situation where the plants sent last from England are placed, we have a small crop of red and white clover, and another of wheat which appears to promise well.

"It has occurred to me," adds the Governor, "that Sierra Leone would be a very advantageous temporary residence for any person intending to dedicate himself to the advancement of the knowledge of Africa, both on account of the salubrity of the climate, and the acquaintance to be gained with the manners and customs of the country. There are, perhaps, few things that would be more beneficial to this Colony than the introduction of a scientific man, who could describe the animal and vegetable productions of this part of the globe with accuracy. There can be no doubt that there is in this country a mass of unknown treasures, which want only scientific examination to be discovered."

The Directors have also received a letter, containing much important information respecting a district of the Gold Coast, from Mr. Meredith—the same gentleman who has furnished an article in the Appendix to their last Report. Mr. Meredith states, that the beneficial effects which might be expected to follow the Abolition of the Slave Trade by Great Britain, have been greatly impeded by the continuance of it, though on a reduced scale, by other nations. Accusations, pre-

datory wars, &c. are not so frequent as formerly; but kidnapping, he adds, is still practised. That the inhabitants are more industrious, and that they have more confidence in their personal safety, he thinks is clearly observable. In short, the effects which have flowed from even a partial abolition of the Slave Trade, seem to him to prove that a total abolition would be attended with many more beneficial consequences; for though the export of Slaves from Africa be now comparatively trifling, yet it keeps alive on the Coast many of the mal-practices which would otherwise cease. The total abolition, he observes, is therefore necessary*.

With the exception of the letters already referred to, the Directors have had little information from Africa, excepting what relates to the painful subject of the revival of the Slave Trade, to which they have already adverted; and they are under considerable apprehensions lest much of what they have attempted to do for Africa should be counteracted by the influence of that pernicious traffic.

In the mean time, enough at least has been done to prove the practicability of success, in case fair scope should be afforded to their efforts, by the removal of this grand barrier to all improvement and to all happiness. In particular,

* See Appendix, S.

the Directors have continued to receive the most satisfactory proofs that Africans are as susceptible of intellectual and moral culture as the natives of any other quarter of the globe: but they feel persuaded that the members of this Institution require no fresh facts or illustrations to convince them of this truth.

The Directors are unwilling to omit, in their Report, the relation of an interesting circumstance which occurred a few months ago at Liverpool.

Some time in the month of September last, Mr. Roscoe was informed, that nine black men were confined in the borough gaol of Liverpool for debt; and on further inquiry he learned, that they had been arrested by the master of a Portuguese vessel from the Brazils, then in the port, for the purpose, as was supposed, of keeping them in safe custody until his ship should be ready for sea. As it appeared clearly that in such a case no debt could exist, Mr. Roscoe engaged two friends to put in bail for the defendants; but before an order was obtained for their discharge, the master and his agents, being aware of these proceedings, surrounded the gaol with a great number of Portuguese seamen and other persons, armed, for the purpose of seizing the prisoners; and the attorney for the master sent an order to the goaler to discharge them.

The black men, however, were apprised of their danger: their fellow-prisoners declared they should not be taken away by force; and the keeper of the gaol, with a spirit of humanity which does him the highest credit, informed them, that, although they were at liberty to leave the prison, they might stay as long as they pleased. The ruffians were therefore obliged to depart without their prey, and the next day Mr. Roscoe attended a meeting of the Magistrates and Recorder, when an inquiry took place into these proceedings; and the agents and the master having undertaken, on his not being prosecuted, that the men should be set at liberty, and that he should pay all the costs, and relinquish further proceedings, they were immediately released from their confinement. The Magistrates shewed a proper indignation at this abuse of the process of their court: but it appearing that the Portuguese Captain could not speak English, and that he had been induced to adopt these measures by the advice of others; and it also appearing that these Negroes were considered of great value, having been bred to the sea, and one of them being the boatswain of the ship, so that the master would sustain a loss which he calculated at upwards of one thousand pounds; the intention of prosecuting him was relinquished. Eight of these men immediately afterwards entered, most cheerfully, into his Majesty's service;

and the ninth, being more infirm, was taken by a friend of Mr. Roscoe's on board of one of his own vessels.

In the course of these proceedings, Mr. Roscoe was most ably assisted by Mr. Stanistreet and Mr. Avison, two very respectable solicitors; who most strenuously advocated the cause of the prisoners at several hearings on the subject, and generously declined any recompense for their services.

So convinced were the Magistrates and Recorder of Liverpool of the iniquitous nature of this transaction, that they soon after passed an order, that no process of arrest should hereafter issue, except in cases where an affidavit is made that the cause of action actually arose within the borough; a resolution which will effectually prevent such abuses in future.

The Directors felt that it was incumbent on them, in the name of the Institution, to convey their thanks to Mr. Roscoe, and to the gentlemen who had assisted him on this occasion, for their humane and successful interposition in behalf of these men.

The Directors have now only to advert to the state of the Funds of the Institution. The account, on the 31st of December last, as sanctioned by the auditors, is as follows:

RECEIPTS.

Dec. 31, 1808. Cash on hand	*L.* 159	1	8
Subscriptions and Donations since received	1662	16	0
Interest on Exchequer Bills	101	11	9
	1923	9	5

DISBURSEMENTS.

Cash paid for Board and Instruction of African Youths; for premiums on importation of cotton; for seeds, &c. sent to Africa; for printing and distributing Reports, and other printing expenses, and stationery; for advertising in newspapers; porterage, posting, &c.; remuneration to the Collector, and to Clerks, for their services, &c. &c.	413	14	1
Cash paid for an Exchequer Bill	1015	2	1
Cash on hand	494	13	3
	1923	9	5

The property of the Institution, therefore, on the 1st of January, consisted in three Exchequer Bills	3000	0	0
Cash on hand	494	13	3
	3494	13	3

From this account it will appear, that the expenditure of the Institution, during the last year, has not been very large. The funds, it will also be perceived, are of slow growth; but the Directors have reason to hope, that as the nature of the Institution becomes more known, it will not fail to command the cordial and liberal support of all who have it at heart to promote the best interests of man.

They are happy in this opportunity of recording the obligations which the Institution is under to some unknown individual of the society of Friends, called Quakers, who lately presented to the Directors, by the hands of Mr. Allen, a donation of five hundred guineas, with a request that it might be appropriated exclusively to the purpose of civilization, in informing the minds and improving the moral habits of the Natives of Africa, by instruction in such useful arts as may promote their domestic and social happiness. The Directors have been anxious to express their sense of the generosity of this donation; and they cannot but regret that the delicacy of the donor has put it out of their power to offer to him personally acknowledgments so well deserved.

sions of the Act that relate to that modified prohibition, or which distinguish the Slave Trade carried on from Africa to foreign colonies, from the same trade when carried on from Africa to British West-India Islands, are now superseded by an Act hereinafter abstracted, which has prohibited the carrying Slaves from Africa universally, whatever be the place of destination. But the Act of 1806 is still operative in respect of Slaves carried from British or conquered colonies in the West Indies, and of slave ships fitted out in England, and in some other cases; as pointed out in the following abstract.

Sect. I. Slave Trade from his Majesty's dominions to foreign parts prohibited.

Sect. I. prohibits the exporting, carrying, or sending Slaves from any part of his Majesty's dominions to any island, colony, territory, or place whatever, belonging to or under the dominion of any foreign sovereign or state, under penalty of forfeiture of all Slaves so exported, carried, or sent, together with the ship or vessel in which they are exported, carried, or embarked.

Sect. II. The same prohibition extended to Slave Trade from any country whatever to foreign parts by British subjects, or persons resident in his Majesty's dominions.

By Sect. II. it is declared to be unlawful for any of his Majesty's Subjects, or any persons resident in this United Kingdom, or any of the islands, colonies, dominions, or territories thereto belonging, to export, carry, or send, or procure to be exported, carried, or sent, or in any manner to aid, abet, or assist in the exporting, carrying, or sending any Slaves from Africa or elsewhere, to

any island, colony, settlement, or place whatever, belonging to or under the dominion of any foreign sovereign or state; or to ship, embark, tranship, or put on board, or cause or procure to be shipped, embarked, transhipped, or put on board of any ship or vessel whatever, at Africa or elsewhere, any Slave or Slaves, with intent to the exporting, transporting, carrying, conveying, or sending the same to any foreign island, settlement, colony, or place. The penalty of exporting, carrying, sending, &c. or shipping, transhipping, or putting on board any Slave or Slaves, contrary to any of the prohibitions in this section, is forfeiture of the Slave or Slaves, and of the ship or vessel employed in the unlawful act, as far as any British subject or person resident in his Majesty's dominions is interested therein. Penalties.

[N. B. This section is so comprehensively worded, as to embrace almost every case in which a British subject can be employed in carrying on the foreign Slave Trade, either as a principal or agent, master or mariner. But as it extends to confiscation only of the share or interest of the British subjects, or persons resident in his Majesty's dominions, more efficacious provisions, applicable in most of the same cases, will be found in the last and general Abolition Act hereinafter abstracted. Observations.

This section also still applies to the offence of

exporting or carrying Slaves from British islands or colonies in the West Indies to any foreign island or territory.]

Sect. V. Further Pecuniary penalties.

By Sect. V. pecuniary penalties are annexed to offences in the importing, exporting, carrying or embarking Slaves against the prohibitions in this Act contained; viz. fifty pounds sterling for every Slave unlawfully imported, exported, carried, or embarked, contrary to the said Act, except when it shall be clearly proved that the prohibited act arose entirely from stress of weather, peril of the sea, or other inevitable accidents, the burthen of which proof shall in all cases lie on the claimant or defendant.

Exception as to necessity.

Exception as to convicts transported.

Provided that nothing in this Act shall extend to prevent the transportation to any foreign colony or place, of any Slaves convicted by due course of law in any British Colony of any crime to which the punishment of transportation is by the law of such Colony annexed. But the copy of the judgment or sentence, certified by the Court before which each offender was convicted, must be on board.

Sect. VI. British subjects and persons resident in his Majesty's dominions not to invest or employ their money,

Sect. VI. declares it to be unlawful for any of his Majesty's subjects, or any person resident in this United Kingdom, or in any of the colonies, territories, or dominions thereto belonging, to invest or employ any money, ships, goods, or effects to him belonging, in trading in or carrying Slaves

from Africa or elsewhere, to any settlement, island, colony, territory, or place belonging to or under the dominion of any foreign sovereign or state; or knowingly to advance money, or become security in any manner for the loan or advance of money, goods, or effects, for the purpose of being employed or used in any such trade or carriage of Slaves; or to become guarantee or security for any factor or agent; or to engage as packer, factor, agent, or otherwise, directly or indirectly, in any such prohibited Slave Trade, under penalty of forfeiting for every offence double the value of all the money, ships, vessels, goods, and effects so employed, lent, advanced, or secured.

ships, or goods, or lend mone or become security fo loans of mo ney, &c. t be employ ed in any foreign Slave Trad

Penalty.

Sect. VII. prohibits all insurances by his Majesty's subjects, or persons resident in his Majesty's dominions, on ships, Slaves, or goods, employed in any foreign Slave Trade. The penalty for insuring, or causing or procuring any insurance, contrary to this prohibition, is five hundred pounds for every offence, and the insurance to be void.

Sect. VI Insurance on Foreig Slave Tra prohibited

Sect. VIII. prohibits the employment, engagement, or use of any British ship or vessel, her boats, officers, or marines, in Africa, or on any part of the Coast thereof, directly or indirectly, in supplying with Slaves any foreign vessel or factory, or any person concerned for, or on account of, any such vessel or factory, or any foreign colony or territory. Every ship or vessel so employed,

Sect. VI The em ployment British shi or boats, & in Africa, in supplyi foreign slave shi or factori

engaged, or used, with the consent, approbation, or direction of the owner, shall be forfeited, and the master or person in command shall forfeit one hundred pounds.

Sect. IX. Foreign slave ships not to be fitted out or dispatched from Great Britain, or any part of his Majesty's dominions.

Sect. IX. prohibits the fitting out, equipping, manning, or dispatching of any foreign ship or vessel, employed or intended to be employed in the African Slave Trade, at or from any port of this United Kingdom, or any other part of his Majesty's dominions, for a voyage to Africa, whether that be the place of immediate destination, or such ship or vessel, before proceeding thither, be destined to touch at some other port or place.

British subjects, and persons resident in his Majesty's dominions, not to be aiding in shipping goods, &c. on board foreign slave ships.

The same Section also prohibits to his Majesty's subjects, and all other persons, the shipping, lading, or putting on board, in any foreign ship or vessel, when destined directly or indirectly to Africa, at any port in this United Kingdom, or any other part of his Majesty's dominions, any goods, wares, merchandize, or commodities whatsoever, with intent that the same shall be carried to Africa to be there bartered for Slaves, or otherwise employed in the African Slave Trade.

Penalties.

The penalties are, forfeiture of the foreign ship or vessel so fitted out, equipped, manned, or dispatched, and of the goods, wares, merchandizes, or commodities, so shipped, laden, or put on board; and if any of his Majesty's subjects, or any persons resident in his Majesty's dominions,

shall knowingly or wilfully commit, or be aiding, abetting, or assisting, in any such offence, the parties so offending shall forfeit and pay for every such offence one hundred pounds.

All ships deemed foreign for this purpose which are not duly qualified British slave ships.

Every ship or vessel shall be deemed and taken to be a foreign ship or vessel under this section, although owned in whole or in part by British subjects, which shall not be registered, navigated, and cleared out in such manner as to entitle her to import Slaves into a British colony, according to the Law of Navigation, and to an Act made in the 39th year of his Majesty, entitled, "An Act for better regulating the manner of carrying Slaves in British vessels from the Coast of Africa."

Observations.

[N. B. No ship or vessel whatever can now be thus qualified; the Slave-carrying Act being virtually repealed by the last and general Abolition Act hereinafter abstracted. Every ship or vessel whatever, therefore, that shall be fitted out for the Slave Trade in any part of his Majesty's dominions, or that shall otherwise fall within the prohibitions in this section contained, must necessarily be subject to the penalties and forfeitures above-mentioned.]

Sect. X. XI. XII

The 10th, 11th, and 12th Sections contain regulations to prevent the carrying on an illicit Slave Trade to the foreign colonies in vessels clearing out for and proceeding from Africa, on slave-trading voyages ostensibly destined for

the supply of our own islands or colonies.—All such trade from Africa, whether to our own colonies or elsewhere, being now prohibited, these sections have no longer any operation.

Sect. XIII. Slaves how to be carried from one British island or colony to another, &c.

Sect. XIII. regulates the mode of carrying Slaves from one British island or colony to another, with a view to the prevention of frauds against the prohibitions in this Act contained. Application is to be made in writing, by the owner or exporter, to the Governor, or to the Collector or chief officer of the Customs, of the port from which the Slaves are to be exported or embarked, expressing the number and quality of the Slaves to be exported, carried, or conveyed, and the place of destination (being some island or colony belonging to or under the dominion of his Majesty). A Licence in writing is thereupon to be obtained, under the hand and seal of such Governor, Collector, or chief officer, authorizing the exportation of the Slaves, and specifying the place of destination. But, previous to granting any such licence, Bond is to be given by the owner or exporter, in a penalty equal to fifty pounds sterling for every Slave, with conditions faithfully and truly to land and deliver the same at the specified place of destination, and to produce within a reasonable time a Certificate from the Collector or chief officer of the Customs there, or, if no such officer at the place of destination, then of two of the most emi-

nent British merchants or inhabitants there, testifying that the Slaves have been landed and left in the said port or place of destination—(Death, or other inevitable impediment, to be proved by oath of two credible witnesses, excepted).

The penalty of not landing and leaving the Slaves according to the condition of the Bond, or of such Certificate as aforesaid not being duly returned, is forfeiture of the said sum of fifty pounds for each Slave, in addition to all other penalties and forfeitures under this Act. Penalties

Proviso: the bonds to be void, if not prosecuted within three years from the date. Restriction and exceptions

Proviso: the Act not to extend to prevent any Slave from being employed either in navigation, fishing, or any other his ordinary business or occupation upon the seas.

Proviso: the Act shall not extend to prevent any Slave, who shall be really and truly the domestic servant of any person residing in any British island or colony, from attending his owner or master, or any part of his family, by sea, to any place whatever, whether under the dominion of his Majesty or of any foreign sovereign or state.

But in all these cases, of Slaves employed in navigation, fishermen, and domestic slaves embarked either on a voyage to another British island or colony, or on a voyage to any foreign colony or territory, or any island, settlement, colony, or Regulations as to domestic slaves attending their masters, &c.

plantation which have been surrendered to his Majesty's arms during the present war, the names and occupations of every such Slave or Slaves (except domestic slaves attending on the person of any passengers on board, not exceeding two slaves for each passenger) shall be inserted in, or indorsed upon, the Clearance or Permit to depart of such ship or vessel, by or in presence of the Collector, Comptroller, or other chief officer of the Customs of the port or place from which the ship or vessel clears, who shall certify under his hand that the Slaves were reported and described to him as seamen, fishermen, or domestic servants, as the case may be.

Penalties for breach hereof.

Any Slave or Slaves found on board any ship or vessel bound on any such voyage as aforesaid, whose names and descriptions shall not be inserted in or indorsed upon the Clearance or Permit, and certified as aforesaid (except as aforesaid), or who shall be untruly or fraudulently therein or thereupon described, with intent to violate or elude any of the prohibitions or regulations in this Act contained, shall and may be seized and prosecuted; and the master or other person having charge of the ship or vessel in which the same shall be embarked or carried without such Certificate as aforesaid, and the owner, master, or other person, by whom or by whose procurement such Slaves shall be untruly or fraudulently described

with such intent as aforesaid, shall respectively forfeit fifty pounds sterling for every such Slave.

Proviso: that nothing in this Act shall extend to prevent any Slaves being put on board any ship or vessel by the order of his Majesty's Commander in Chief, either by sea or land, in any island, colony, or territory belonging to or under the dominion of his Majesty, in order to be employed in his Majesty's military or naval service; and from being by such order so employed, howsoever or wheresoever the said service may require. Exception.

Sect. XIV. Governors *pro tempore* or exercising the functions of Governor, whether as Governor, Lieutenant-Governor, or President of the Council, may do all acts which the Governor is hereby empowered to do. Sect. XIV. Governors of colonies.

Sect. XV. Conquered colonies, if re-conquered, to be deemed foreign under this Act. Sect. XV.

Sect. XVI. Persons taking false oaths under this Act subject to the pains and penalties of perjury. Sect. XVI.

Sect. XVII. regulates the recovery and application of forfeitures and penalties under this Act. Sect. XVII

The pecuniary penalties and forfeitures may be sued for and recovered in any Court of Record in Great Britain, or in any Court of Record or Vice-Admiralty in any part of his Majesty's dominions wherein the offence was committed: or, Penalties and forfeitures, where to be recovered.

in case the offender should be resident in any other place, then in any part of his Majesty's dominions wherein he may be found.

In all cases of seizures of ships, Slaves, goods, or effects, for any forfeiture under this Act, the same may be sued for, prosecuted, and recovered, in any Court of Record in Great Britain, or in any Court of Record or Vice-Admiralty in any part of his Majesty's dominions in or nearest to which such seizures may be made, or to which such ships or vessels, Slaves, goods, or effects (if seized at sea, or without the limits of any British jurisdiction) may be most conveniently carried for trial.

Penalties and forfeitures, how to be recovered, and to whose benefit to accrue, &c.

All the said penalties and forfeitures, whether pecuniary or specific, shall go and belong to such persons, in such shares and proportions, and may be sued for, prosecuted, tried, recovered, distributed, and applied, in like manner, and by the same ways and means, and subject to the same rules and directions, as any penalties or forfeitures incurred in Great Britain and in the British Colonies in America respectively, by force of any Act of Parliament relating to the trade and revenues of the British Colonies in America, and may be sued for, &c. in Great Britain, or in the said Colonies respectfully, under and by virtue of the Statute 4 Geo. III. cap. 15.

Sect. XVIII. All ships and vessels, Slaves*, goods, and effects, forfeited for any offence under this Act, may be seized by any officer of his Majesty's Customs or Excise, or by the commanders or officers of any of his Majesty's ships or vessels of war; who, in making and prosecuting any such seizures, shall have the benefit of all the provisions made in the said Act of the 4th of his Majesty, or any other Act of Parliament made for the protection of officers seizing and prosecuting for any offence against the said Act, or any other Act of Parliament relating to the trade and revenues of the British Colonies in America.

Sect.XVI Who ma seize and prosecute and how protected &c.

Sect. XIX. Persons sued for any thing done under this Act may plead the general issue, and give the Act in evidence, &c.; and if judgment is given for the defendant, he shall recover treble costs, &c.

Sect X Further tection i seizors a prosecut

2. *Abstract of the Act of* 1807.

The second of these Acts is Stat. 47 Geo. III. cap. 36. passed 25th of March 1807, and en-

General Abolitio Act.

* Observe, that the proceedings on condemnation of *Slaves* seized under this Act, or any other Act made for the abolition of the Slave Trade, and of prize Slaves, are now specially regulated under the general Abolition Act hereafter abstracted. They are to be enfranchised, and bounties paid to the captors.

titled, "An Act for the Abolition of the Slave Trade."

The African Slave Trade abolished.

By Sect. I. the African Slave Trade, and all manner of dealing and trading in the purchase, sale, barter, or transfer of Slaves, or persons intended to be sold, transferred, used, or dealt with as Slaves, practised or carried on in, at, or from any part of the coast or countries of Africa, are, from and after the 1st of May 1807, utterly abolished and prohibited, and declared to be unlawful.

All dealing &c. in Slaves to be transported from Africa, or any foreign country whatever, abolished and prohibited.

And also all manner of dealing, either by way of purchase, sale, barter, or transfer, or by means of any other contract or agreement whatever, relating to any Slaves, or any persons intended to be used or dealt with as Slaves, for the purpose of such Slaves or persons being removed or transported, either immediately, or by transhipment at sea or otherwise, directly or indirectly, from Africa, or from any island, country, territory, or place, whether in the West Indies, or in any other part of America, not being in the dominion, possession, or occupation of his Majesty, to any other island, country, territory, or place whatever, is in like manner utterly abolished, prohibited, and declared to be unlawful.

Penalties.

The penalty, on British subjects, or persons resident within the United Kingdom or any of the islands, colonies, dominions, or territories thereto belonging, or in his Majesty's possession

or occupation, who shall offend against any of the said prohibitions, either by themselves, their factors, or agents, or otherwise howsoever, is one hundred pounds sterling for each and every Slave the subject of any such offence; one moiety to the use of his Majesty, and the other moiety to the use of any person who shall inform and prosecute for the same.

British subjects, &c not to fit out, man navigate ships to employe in the Sl Trade.

Sect. II. from and after the 1st of May, 1807, it shall be unlawful for any of his Majesty's subjects, or any person resident in the United Kingdom, or any of the islands, colonies, dominions, or territories thereto belonging, or in his Majesty's possession or occupation, to fit out, man, or navigate, or to be concerned in the fitting out, manning, or navigating any ship or vessel, for the purpose of assisting in or being employed in the carrying on of the African Slave Trade, or in any other the dealing, trading, or concerns by this Act prohibited and declared to be unlawful.

Ships so fitted ou be forfeit

Every ship or vessel which shall be fitted out, manned, navigated, used, or employed by any such subject or person, or on his or their account, or by his or their assistance or procurement, for any of the purposes aforesaid, and by this Act prohibited, together with all her boats, guns, tackle, apparel, and furniture, shall become forfeited, and may be seized and prosecuted as by this Act is afterwards mentioned and provided.

Observations.

[This section extends to cases not provided for by 46 Geo. III. cap. 52. sect. 9; for it applies to slave ships generally, if fitted out, manned, navigated, used, or employed by any British subject, or person resident in his Majesty's dominions, or on his account, or by his assistance or procurement; whereas the former Act extended only to such slave ships, when fitted out, equipped, manned, or dispatched at or from some port in his Majesty's dominions. The forfeiture under this section, however, does not extend to the *cargo*. In that respect, the 9th section of the former Act, in cases falling within it, is a preferable ground of prosecution..

As to *Slaves* found on board any such ship or vessel, see the next and other sections of this and the former Act, which seem to comprise every possible case of prohibited Slave Trade in which Slaves can be found on shipboard, and universally to entitle them, in every such case, to their freedom, and the captor or seizor to such bounties as are hereinafter mentioned.]

British subjects, &c. not to carry away or remove as Slaves any subject or inhabitant of Africa, &c. from Africa or any foreign country, or

Sect. III. enacts, that from and after the said 1st day of May, 1807, it shall be unlawful for any of his Majesty's subjects, or any person or persons resident in this United Kingdom or any of the colonies, territories, or dominions thereunto belonging, or in his Majesty's possession or occupation, to carry away or remove, or knowingly

and wilfully to procure, aid, or assist in carrying away or removing, as Slaves, or for the purpose of being sold or transferred, used or dealt with as Slaves, any of the subjects or inhabitants of Africa, or of any island, country, territory, or place in the West Indies, or in any other part of America whatsoever, not being in the dominion, possession, or occupation of his Majesty, either immediately, or by transhipment at sea or otherwise, directly or indirectly from Africa, or from any such island, country, territory, or place as aforesaid, to any other island, country, territory or place whatever. to procure aid, or assist therein.

And that it shall also be unlawful for any of his Majesty's subjects, or any person or persons resident in the United Kingdom, or in any of the colonies, territories, or dominions thereunto belonging or in his Majesty's possession or occupation, knowingly and wilfully to receive, detain, or confine on board, or to be aiding, assisting, or concerned in the receiving, detaining, or confining on board of any ship or vessel whatever, any such subject or inhabitant as aforesaid, for the purpose of his or her being so carried away or removed as aforesaid, or of his or her being sold, transferred, used, or dealt with as a Slave, in any place or country whatever. British subjects, &c. not to receive, detain, or confine on board, a subject of inhabitants of Africa, &c. for the purpose of his being sold as a Slave.

And if any subject or inhabitant, subjects or inhabitants, of Africa or of any island, country, territory, or place in the West Indies or America, not being in the dominion, Penalty forfeiture the ship and all property in Slaves of African

carried away or received on board, &c.

possession, or occupation of his Majesty, shall be so unlawfully carried away or removed, detained, confined, transhipped, or received on board of any ship or vessel belonging in the whole or in part to, or employed by, any subject of his Majesty, or persons residing in his Majesty's dominions or colonies, or any territory belonging to or in the occupation of his Majesty, for any of the unlawful purposes aforesaid, contrary to the form and effect, and true intent and meaning, of the prohibitions in this Act contained, every such ship or vessel, in which any such person or persons shall be so unlawfully carried away or removed, detained, confined, transhipped, or received on board, for any of the said unlawful purposes, together with all her boats, guns, tackle, apparel, and furniture, shall be forfeited; and all property or pretended property in any Slaves or natives of Africa so unlawfully carried away or removed, detained, confined, transhipped, or received on board, shall also be forfeited; and the same respectively shall and may be seized and prosecuted, as in the said Act is afterwards provided.

British subjects, or persons residing in his Majesty's dominions, committing, or aiding and assisting in, any act in this section prohibited, shall forfeit one hundred pounds sterling for every Slave or person carried away, removed, detained, confined, &c. contrary to the said prohibitions; one

moiety to the use of the king, and the other moiety to the use of any person who shall inform and prosecute.

Slaves unlawfully brought from Africa and imported into a British colony, and there kept in slavery, may be seized as forfeited t his Majest in the sam manner a any goods unlawfully imported may be seized und the Acts o Navigatio and Trad

Sect. IV. If any subject or inhabitant, subjects or inhabitants, of Africa, or of any island, country, territory, or place, not being in the dominion, possession, or occupation of his Majesty, who shall at any time from and after the 1st day of May 1807, have been unlawfully carried away or removed from Africa, or from any island, country, territory, or place in the West Indies or America, not being in the dominion, possession, or occupation of his Majesty, contrary to any of the prohibitions or provisions in this Act contained, shall be imported or brought into any island, colony, plantation, or territory in the dominion, possession, or occupation of his Majesty, and there sold or disposed of as a Slave or Slaves, or placed, detained, or kept in a state of slavery, such subject or inhabitant, subjects or inhabitants, so unlawfully carried away or removed, and imported, shall and may be seized and prosecuted as forfeited to his Majesty, by such person and persons, in such courts, manner, and form, as any goods or merchandise unlawfully imported into the same island, colony, plantation, or territory may now be seized and prosecuted therein by virtue of any act or acts of Parliament now in force for regulating the navigation and trade of his

Majesty's colonies and plantations; and shall and may, after his or their condemnation, be disposed of in manner hereinafter mentioned and provided.

Observations. Reference to statutes relative to seizures in the colonies.

[By Stat. 7th and 8th Will. III. cap. 22. sect. 6. all the powers and authorities given to Custom-house officers in England, by the Stat. 14. Car. II. cap. 11, are given to the officers for collecting and managing his Majesty's revenue, and inspecting the plantation trade in the colonies; and they are not only thereby enabled to seize on shore any uncustomed or prohibited goods, or goods unlawfully imported, but expressly to enter houses and warehouses, &c.: See also the powers given by the Stat. 14. Car. II. cap. 11. sect. 5, &c. when resistance is made.]

Insurances on Slave Trade prohibited.

Sect. V. prohibits insurances on any trade, dealing, or transaction prohibited or rendered unlawful by this Act. Any British subject, or person resident in his Majesty's dominions, subscribing, effecting, or making, or causing or promising to be subscribed, effected, or made, any such unlawful insurance, to forfeit one hundred pounds for every such insurance; and also treble the sum paid, or agreed to be paid, as premium thereon; one moiety to the use of his Majesty, the other moiety to the use of any person who shall inform and prosecute.]

Sect. VI. is a cause of limitation in point of time, which has expired.

Sect. VII. regulates the treatment and disposal of Slaves, taken as prize of war, or seized as forfeited under this or any other Act of Parliament made for restraining or prohibiting the Slave Trade.

Regulat for the tr ment an disposal Negroes condemn as prize, as forfei

It is enacted, that all Slaves and all natives of Africa, treated, dealt with, carried, kept, or detained as Slaves, which shall be seized as prize of war, or as liable to forfeiture under this or any other Act of Parliament, made for restraining or prohibiting the African Slave Trade, shall and may (for the purpose only of seizure, prosecution, or condemnation, as prize or as forfeiture), be considered, treated, taken, and adjudged, as Slaves and property, in the same manner as Negro Slaves have been heretofore considered, treated, taken, and adjudged, when seized as prize of war, or as forfeited for any offence against the laws of trade and navigation, respectively: but the same shall be condemned as prize of war, or as forfeited, to the sole use of his Majesty, his heirs, and successors, for the purpose only of divesting and barring all other property, right, title, or interest whatever, which before existed, or might afterward be set up or claimed, in or to such natives of Africa, so seized, prosecuted, and condemned: and the same, nevertheless, shall in no case be liable to be sold, disposed of, treated, or dealt with as Slaves, by or on the part of his Majesty, his heirs, or successors, or on the part of any

person or persons claiming from, by, or under him or them, or under, or by force of, any such sentence of condemnation.

Proviso: That it shall be lawful for his Majesty, his heirs and successors, and such officers, civil or military, as shall, by any general or special Order of the King in Council, be, from time to time, appointed and empowered, to receive, protect, and provide for, such natives of Africa as shall be so condemned; and either to enter and inlist the same, or any of them, into his Majesty's land or sea service, as soldiers, seamen, or marines, or to bind the same or any of them, whether of full age or not, as apprentices, for any term not exceeding fourteen years, to such persons, in such places, and upon such terms and conditions, and subject to such regulations, as to his Majesty shall seem meet, or as shall, by any general or special Order in Council, be in that behalf directed and appointed.

Indentures of apprenticeship and inlistments to be as effectual as if the party, being of full age, on good consideration, had bound himself apprentice, or had voluntarily enlisted.

Observation. [The provisions as to inlisting and apprenticing, extend only to such Slaves as are *natives of Africa.* If Creoles, they are presumably able to gain their own livelihood; and are, therefore, to be set at liberty as free men.]

Sect. VIII. provides that bounties on Slaves, or natives of Africa, taken as prize of war by his Majesty's ships or privateers, shall, after their final condemnation to his Majesty's use as aforesaid, be paid to the captors, in like manner as the bounty, called Head-money, is now paid by virtue of the existing Prize Act (viz. 45 Geo. III. cap. 72.) The bounties to be such as his Majesty shall have directed by any Order in Council, so as the same shall not exceed forty pounds sterling for every man, thirty pounds sterling for every woman, and ten pounds for every child or person not above fourteen years old, that shall be so taken and condemned, and delivered over in good health, to the proper officer or officers, civil or military, appointed to receive, protect, or provide for, the same. These bounties to be divided among the officers, seamen, marines, and soldiers on board his Majesty's ships of war, or hired armed ships, according to his Majesty's proclamation for granting the distribution of prizes; and among the owners, officers, and seamen of any private ship or vessel of war, in such manner and proportion as by any agreement in writing, that they shall have entered into for that purpose, shall be directed.

Bounties to captors of prize Slave

[By an Order of his Majesty in Council, dated the 16th March, 1808, made in pursuance of this Act, and hereinafter abstracted, the above boun-

Orders

ties are appointed to be paid to the full extent of the rates above limited, viz.: forty pounds sterling for every man, thirty pounds for every woman, and ten pounds for every child or person under fourteen years of age.]

Certificates for bounties on prize Slaves.

Sect. IX. provides, that in order to enable the captors to receive the said bounty-money, the number of men, women, and children so taken, condemned, and delivered over, shall be proved to the Commissioners of his Majesty's Navy, by producing a copy duly testified, of the sentence or decree of condemnation, whereby the number of men, women, and children, so taken and condemned, shall appear to have been distinctly proved; and also by producing a Certificate under the hand of the said officer or officers, military or civil, so appointed as aforesaid, and to whom the condemned Negroes shall have been delivered, acknowledging that he or they hath or have received the same, to be disposed of according to his Majesty's instructions and regulations.

Doubts as to bounties, how to be decided.

Sect. X. Where doubts arise respecting the right to bounty money, the same shall be summarily determined by the Judge of the High Court of Admiralty, or any Court of Admiralty in which the prize shall have been adjudged; subject to appeal.

Bounties on Slaves seized as forfeited.

Sect. XI. provides bounties to be paid on the condemnation of Slaves, or natives of Africa,

seized, and condemned as forfeited, for any offence against this Act, or any other Act of Parliament made for restraining or prohibiting the African Slave Trade, viz.: In all such cases (except in cases of seizures made at sea by the commanders or officers of his Majesty's ships or vessels of war), there shall be paid, to the use of the informer and prosecutor, thirteen pounds sterling for every man, ten pounds for every woman, and three pounds for every child or person under fourteen years of age, that shall be condemned and delivered over in good health to the civil or military officer to be appointed to receive, protect, and provide for the same. And also the like sums to the use of the Governor or Commander in Chief of any colony or plantation wherein such seizures shall have been made. But in cases of any such seizures made at sea by the commanders or officers of his Majesty's ships or vessels of war, for forfeitures under this Act, or any other Act of Parliament made for restraining or prohibiting the African Slave Trade, there shall be paid to the commander or officer who shall seize, inform, and prosecute; for every man so condemned and delivered over, twenty pounds sterling; for every woman, fifteen pounds sterling; and for every child, or person under the age of fourteen, five pounds like money; subject, nevertheless, to such distribution of the said bounties or rewards last mentioned, as his

Majesty shall think fit to order and direct by any Order in Council made for that purpose.

Certificates for bounties on Slaves seized as forfeited.

The officers, civil or military, so to be appointed to receive and provide for the Slaves or natives of Africa condemned, are to grant certificates in favour of the governor and prosecutor or seizing officer, addressed to the Lords Commissioners of the Treasury, who upon the production of any such certificate, and of an authentic copy, duly certified, of the sentence of condemnation, and also of a receipt under the hand of such officer or officers as aforesaid, specifying that such Slaves or Africans have by him or them been received in good health, shall direct payment to be made of the monies specified in such certificate, to the lawful holders thereof, or the persons intitled to the benefit thereof respectively.

Forging certificates, &c. felony.

Sect. XII. makes it felony without benefit of clergy to forge or counterfeit any such certificate, copy of sentence of condemnation, or receipt, as aforesaid, or wilfully to utter or publish the same, knowing it to be forged, with intent to defraud his Majesty or any other person.

Penalties and forfeitures, how to be recovered, &c.

Sect. XIII. provides for the recovery of penalties and forfeitures under this Act, and for the application thereof (except where it is otherwise in that behalf expressly provided by this Act), and for the mode of prosecution, and the rules and directions relative thereto, in the same

manner as is provided by the 17th section of the Foreign Slave Trade Act above abstracted, (see p. 42.) in respect of the penalties and forfeitures thereby inflicted and imposed: viz. by a general reference to the Statute 4 Geo. III. cap. 15*.

* It may be useful to observe, that among the provisions in that Act, 4 Geo. III. cap. 15, for the facilitating convictions and protecting officers seizing and prosecuting in the British Colonies, are the following:

Sect. XLI. The prosecutor may sue in any Court of Record in the Colony, or any Court of Admiralty or Vice-Admiralty having jurisdiction there, at his election.

Sect. XLIII. If the produce of seizures be insufficient to answer the expenses of condemnation and sale, or if, on the trial of any seizure of any ship and goods, a verdict or sentence shall be given for the claimant, the charges attending the seizure and prosecution may, with the consent of any four of the Commissioners of his Majesty's Customs, be paid out of any branch of the revenue of Customs in any British Colony.

Sect. XLV. If any ship or goods shall be seized for any cause of forfeiture, and any dispute shall arise, whether the goods shall have been lawfully imported or exported, or concerning the growth, product, or manufacture of such goods, or the place from whence they were brought, in such cases the proof thereof shall lie upon the owner or claimer of such goods, and not upon the officer who shall seize or stop the same.

Sect. XLVI. When a verdict or sentence is given for the claimer of any ship or goods the subject of any information, and it shall appear to the judge or court that there was a probable cause of seizure, the judge or court shall certify on the record or other proceedings, that there was a probable cause for the prosecutor's seizing the said ship or goods; and in such cases the defendant shall not be entitled

Who may seize.

Sect. XIV. All ships or vessels, Slaves or natives of Africa, carried, conveyed, or dealt with as Slaves, and all other goods and effects that shall or may become forfeited for any offence committed against this Act, shall and may be seized by any officer of his Majesty's Customs or Excise, or by the commanders or officers of any of his Majesty's ships or vessels of war, who in making and prosecuting any such seizures, shall have the benefit of all the provisions made by the said Act of the 4th of his present Majesty*, or any other Act of Parliament made for the protection of officers seizing and prosecuting for any offence against the said Act, or any other Act of Parliament relating to the trade and revenues of the British Colonies or Plantations in America.

Protection of seizing officers.

Offences may be tried in Middlesex.

Sect. XV. All offences against this Act may be tried as if committed in the county of Middlesex.

His Majesty may regulate future disposal of apprenticed Negroes.

Sect. XVI. His Majesty may make regulations for the future disposal and support of Negroes bound apprentices under this Act, after the term of their apprenticeship shall have expired.

Sect. XVII. The provisions of any Act for enlisting for any limited period of service, &c.

to any costs of suit whatever; nor shall the person who seized the ship or goods be liable to any action, or other suit or prosecution, on account of such seizure.

* See the last note.

shall not extend to Negroes enlisted under this Act, and serving in his Majesty's forces.

Sect. XVIII. If any action or suit shall be commenced against any person, for any thing done in pursuance of this Act, the defendant may plead the general issue, and give this Act and the special matter in evidence; and if the same shall appear to have been done in pursuance and by the authority of this Act, the jury shall find for the defendant. And if the plaintiff shall be non-suited or discontinue his action after the defendant has appeared, or if judgment shall be given on any verdict or demurrer against the plaintiff, the defendant shall recover treble costs.

Further protection of seizors and prosecutors

5. *Abstract of two Orders in Council of the 16th of March*, 1808.

The first order appoints as follows:—The Collector or chief officer of the Customs for the time being, in any of his Majesty's colonies being seats of Courts of Vice-Admiralty, shall receive, protect, and provide for, all such Negroes, natives of Africa, as have been or shall be condemned, either as prize of war or forfeiture to the Crown, under the provisions of the above Acts; and directs the Collector or chief officer to receive all such Ne-

Collector of Customs to receive and provide for condemned Negroes.

station, the number remaining fit to be employed in his Majesty's sea service; and the said officer shall receive into his Majesty's naval service any number of such Negroes that the service may want, and that may be fit for the same.

Negroes not received into his Majesty's service to be apprenticed.

Full power and authority are given to the Collector or chief officer of the Customs for the time being, to enter and enlist such Negroes as are fit for military service, as soldiers, seamen, or marines, and to bind all such Negroes as shall not be received into his Majesty's service, as apprentices, in manner following, and subject to such other instructions as may hereafter be given by his Majesty in Council:—

1. Such Negroes, whether male or female, the Collector, &c. is to use his best endeavours to bind as apprentices to prudent and humane masters and mistresses, either in the same or other colonies, to learn such trades, handicrafts, or employments, as they may seem most fit for, or most likely to gain their livelihood by, when their apprenticeship shall expire.

Female Negroes not to be employed in field labour.

2. As for female Negroes, the Collector is to take special care that they shall not be employed in the labours of agriculture, but in domestic service; and he is to bind them apprentices only to such masters and mistresses as are of good repute or humanity to their domestic Slaves, and for such term only as may be sufficient for their acquiring the knowledge of their business as domes-

tie servants, with such addition thereto as may repay the care of their instruction, and the charge of their support in the mean time; regard being had to the age and strength of the apprentices.

Wives and mothers, how to be disposed of

3. As to wives and mothers: if the husband be in the army, the wife shall be permitted to live with her husband, or shall be apprenticed or otherwise placed as near as possible to the place where her husband is stationed, and this with the express approbation of the chief officer under whom he serves; and the wife shall not be bound apprentice at all, unless, in the judgment of the Collector, &c. and of the chief military officer, it shall be absolutely necessary; nor in any case for a longer term than they jointly shall deem necessary to enable her, with such aid as her husband can afford, or his Majesty may otherwise allow, to gain her own subsistence and that of her child or children.

4. If the husband is to be apprenticed to a private master, then a preference shall be given to such person, making proposals for the apprenticeship of male Negroes, as, in taking the husband, will consent also to take, as his apprentices for domestic service, the wife and child or children, and to enter into proper covenants not to separate them from each other.

5. In apprenticing women who have any child or children, or are pregnant, or are not past the age of child-bearing, a longer term of service may

be granted, on condition that the master or mistress shall covenant to maintain the child or children born, or to be born, during the term of apprenticeship. But the portion of the term of service so granted, shall be distinguished from what would otherwise be deemed equivalent for the mother's instruction and support: and if at the expiration of the latter period no child shall be living, the term of service shall cease and determine.

In case of death of master, Negroes to be apprenticed afresh.

6. If by the death of the master or mistress, or any other cause, any apprenticed Negro is thrown out of service before such Negro has acquired knowledge enough to gain a livelihood, the Collector, &c. may bind such Negro to some other master or mistress in the same trade or employment, and for any term which, being added to the time which such Negro has already served under the same indenture, shall not exceed fourteen years: subject as nearly as possible to the same rules as in the case of original apprenticeship.

Indentures to be made by Collector in King's name.

7. All indentures under this Order shall be made by the Collector, &c. by appointment of his Majesty; and the covenants of the master or mistress shall be made with his Majesty, his heirs and successors: and in case of any breach of such indentures, the Collector, &c. may prosecute in his Majesty's name for obtaining redress, and for the protection and release of the apprentices.

8. In all such indentures the master or mistress shall covenant to provide the apprentice, or the child or children of the female apprentice (if any), (while not of an age to labour for their own support), with comfortable food, clothing, and other necessaries; and not to treat the apprentice with severity; and to instruct him or her diligently in the specified trade or employment; and to cause the apprentice also to be carefully instructed, as speedily as possible, in the Christian religion, and when instructed, to be taken to be baptised; and to permit and encourage him or her to attend public worship: And shall further covenant not to assign the apprentice to any other person, or to send him or her into any other colony, without the licence of the Collector, &c. and to produce the apprentice, when requested by him, for his inspection—under a penalty equal to double the sum at which the apprentice would be valued if to be sold for a Slave, and it shall be stipulated, that by any default in performing these covenants, on the part of the master or mistress, his or her right to the future service of the apprentice shall, at the election of the Collector, &c. be forfeited, and the term of apprenticeship absolutely cease and determine. Covenants and stipulations of indentures.

The Collector, &c. shall make up an Annual Report, to the 31st of December in each year, of all proceedings in execution of this order; with an accurate account, specifying the number, names, sexes, and ages, of the Negroes received by The Collector to make up and transmit to the Secretary of State an Annual Report.

him, enlisted, apprenticed, or otherwise disposed of; and the names, descriptions, and places of abode of their masters and mistresses; and the state and condition of the apprentice: which report and account, with his observations, he is to transmit to his Majesty's principal Secretary of State for the Colonial Department, to be by him laid before his Majesty in Council.

Collector to grant certificates for bounties.

The Collector, &c. is empowered to grant certificates, for entitling the captors of prize Negroes, and the Governors, seizors, and prosecutors, in the case of forfeited Negroes, to receive the bounties appointed by the said Act for such forfeited Negroes; and the following Bounties for prize Negroes—viz.:

Bounties in cases of prize.

For every man so taken, and condemned and delivered over, the sum of forty pounds sterling.

For every woman so taken, &c. the sum of thirty pounds sterling.

And for every child or person under the age of fourteen years, the sum of ten pounds sterling.

Collector to exercise all other necessary power.

The Collector or chief officer of the Customs for the time being is moreover to enjoy and exercise all such other powers necessary to the execution of his aforesaid duties, as well as to perform all things directed by the above acts to be done by persons appointed to receive, protect, and provide for, natives of Africa condemned, as prize of war, or as forfeitures to the Crown.

The second Order in Council, after recognizing the order which has now been abstracted, notifies, that as it is expedient that all Slaves or natives of Africa taken as prize in or near the coast of Africa, or at any other place from which they can conveniently be carried thither, should there be prosecuted and adjudged; a prize court has been constituted at Sierra Leone in Africa, for the trial and adjudication of any captures of Slaves taken as prize, and of all ships, &c. in which the same shall be found, and of the cargoes therein laden; the Commanders of ships of war and privateers are therefore directed and enjoined to observe the following instructions in all cases of such capture—viz.:

Court of prize constituted at Sierra Leone.

1st, When any Slaves, or natives of Africa, shall be taken or detained as prize of war, at or near any such part of the coast of Africa, or in any such part of the ocean, from which they can, without great inconvenience or danger, be carried or sent to Sierra Leone, they, together, with the vessel in which they shall be taken, and all the effects found on board, shall be carried or sent by the captors for examination, and for trial and adjudication, if need be, in the Court having prize jurisdiction constituted within the said colony.

When it can be done conveniently, Slaves to be carried to Sierra Leone for adjudication.

2d, The captors of any such natives of Africa are enjoined and required forthwith, after the final condemnation of the same by the said Court of Sierra Leone, or any other court of prize jurisdiction to which they may be brought for

Captors to deliver over Slaves to proper officers.

trial, to deliver over the same, with all convenient speed, to the proper officer for the receiving, protecting, and providing for such condemned natives of Africa, according to the directions of the recited Act and Order in Council; which officer will grant the proper certificates for the bounties payable in respect of all such natives of Africa, so condemned and delivered over in good health. The officers at present appointed for the purposes aforesaid are, at Sierra Leone, the Governor, or person having and exercising the chief civil command for the time being; and at all other islands, settlements, or colonies, being seats of Courts of Vice-Admiralty, the Collector, or chief officer of the Customs for the time being, resident in the said respective islands, settlements, or colonies.

☞ *In abstracting the Act of* 1806, *the following clauses have been omitted. The reader is requested to supply them.*

Introduction of Slaves into conquered colonies prohibited.

Sect. III. and IV. prohibit the importing of Slaves into any of the colonies surrendered to his Majesty during the present war; and also the exporting from, or taking on board any ship or vessel, at any place, either in his Majesty's dominions, or in Africa, or elsewhere, any Slaves with intent to carry the same to any of the said colonies; under the penalty of forfeiting all such Slaves, with the ships in which they shall be carried, and their boats, furniture, &c.

Observation.

[N. B. An exception made in these clauses, in favour of persons having a special licence to import Slaves as above, is virtually annulled by the Act of 1807, above abstracted.]

P.

Directions for managing Silk Worms.

ANDREW WRIGHT, of Paisley, gives the following directions for transporting the eggs from one country to another.

"As soon as the moth has laid its eggs, they must be dried and put into a glass phial, which is to be sealed down so close, that neither damp air nor water can penetrate to them. The phials are then to be put in earthen pots filled with cold water, and this water is to be changed as often as it becomes warm; the pots are to be deposited in the coolest part of the ship, where they must remain until the end of the voyage. If the ship bring eggs to Britain, she ought to arrive in the month of June or July."

I think it would be an improvement on the above, to put the eggs in glass tubes about four inches long: one end of the tubes should be closed, and the other end drawn out over a spirit lamp, so as just to leave room to introduce the eggs; when this is done, the open end must be sealed over with a blow-pipe: they would then be hermetically sealed. These tubes should be kept in a porous earthen vessel (called a wine cooler) and should be kept constantly moist. The eggs are very soon hatched in heat, but may be kept for a long time in a cold temperature.

It must be noticed, that a very strong light will kill many of the eggs. When they arrive, they should be spread out upon a sheet of paper, and exposed to the air and warmth, which will probably hatch them in two or three weeks, or sooner. They first appear like little black threads: these must be taken up with a feather, and placed upon the young and tender leaves of the mulberry-tree, spread for this purpose upon trays or paper. They are to be from time to time supplied with fresh leaves, and may be brushed off the old ones with a fea-

ther; but it is advisable to avoid handling them as much as possible. When they have grown a little, it will not be necessary to do this; for when fresh leaves are put over them, they will leave the old ones, which, with their excrement, should be removed as soon as possible; and cleanliness is very conducive to their health. In a few days they will appear sickly and cease to eat, which is preparatory to casting their skin; after which they feed voraciously, and in a few days become sickly again and have another skin.

It has been proposed to have light wooden frames, with wire bottoms, like a sieve, to let the excrement fall through into a box placed below, on the bottom of which powdered quick-lime should be strewed: this will tend greatly to their preservation.

In a warm climate large quantities of food may be readily procured, by rubbing the ripe fruit of the mulberry, when it is full of juice and seeds, upon a rough horse-hair line or rope; ropes thus prepared, being buried in trenches made in the ground, it will be necessary to water them well, and in a short time there will be a plentiful crop of young mulberry trees.

As a tree would be absolutely killed by being deprived of all its leaves, it is obvious that some caution should be used in gathering them; and it should always be remembered, that wet or damp food is very prejudical to the silk-worm.

When they are grown to the size of a little finger they cease to feed, their skin becomes somewhat transparent and yellowish, and they begin to draw fine silken threads over their leaves, or creep into the corners of the tray. They may then be put into little paper cones, in a shady place, where they will soon envelope themselves in silk; and at the end of a few days, if shaken, they will rattle: this is a proof that their labours are over; and they must now be taken care of, otherwise, in a warm climate, at the end of eighteen or twenty days, the moth will eat its way through. On removing the woolly external covering, we find an oval body about the size of a small bird's egg, and not unlike it in shape, which is called the Cocoon. This consists of a light

ball of silk covering the chrysalis. The silk generally weighs from three to four grains, and about two thousand three hundred are required to produce a pound of silk. It has been remarked, that the male moths proceed from the round cocoons, and the female from the pointed ones.

In the present instance it would perhaps be proper to attend more to the propagation of the worm, than to the produce in silk; therefore the cocoon, being kept in a warm and shady place, or being immersed in bran, might be suffered to produce the moths; which, put into paper trays, would soon produce a large number of eggs; these might be prevented from hatching till the proper season for leaves, by keeping them sufficiently cool.

What relates to procuring the silk may be stated in a future communication.

Q.

Extract of a Letter from Dr. ROXBURGH *to the* SECRETARY *of the African Institution, dated Calcutta, August 25, 1809.*

SIR,

YOUR letter of the 16th February last reached me on the 2d instant, accompanied with the First and Second Reports of the Committee of the African Institution. I feel myself highly flattered by the opportunity you have given me of becoming useful to the views of that highly praiseworthy undertaking, and beg you will inform the Committee, that I will take particular pleasure in sending you as many of the various sorts of seeds, useful articles of tropical culture, as may be in my power.

The Sultanee, or yellow Coconut, which you mention, does not grow in Bengal; but I believe it is abundant in Ceylon, where excellent *Coir* is prepared from the fibres of the husk of the nuts of various kinds of this highly useful tree. I have therefore applied to this Government to write to the Government at Columbo, requesting that some of the perfectly ripe nuts, say from fifty to one hundred, be sent by every ship sailing from that island for England, addressed to the care of Mr. Grant, the Chairman of the India Company.

Cajaputta oil-tree seed I can send you from hence, fresh from two young trees in this garden. They are particularly minute, and require dexterity to make them productive. Some you will find in this letter, and some amongst the other seeds, packed up in wax cloth, under your address.

A memorandum of the seeds, and directions for rearing the Sunn and Paat of this country, accompany this; both of which will, I think, prove valuable in Africa, if not already there.

No expense to the Society can ever attend any thing that it may be in my power to send from hence. That I will cheerfully defray, and then think my subscription small.

P. S. Extract of a letter just received from Government.

—" His Excellency the Governor of Ceylon will be immediately requested to give directions for sending to England a quantity of the Sultanee, or yellow Coconut, for the purpose mentioned by you."

List of Seeds sent by DR. ROXBURGH *for the African Institution.*

Crotalaria juncea, or Salsette hemp. *Sunn* of the Bengalese.
Corchorus capsularis. Paat or *Jute* of the Bengalese.

Melaleuca Leucadendron, or the *Cajaputta oil tree.*

Tectonia grandis. The justly-famed timber called *Teak.*

Dalbergia Sissoo. *Sissoo* is the Hindoo name of this quick-growing, most beautiful, and useful timber tree, the wood of which is much used in the marine yard, for furniture, &c. &c.

Terminalia Catappa, and *Procera.* Two beautiful and highly useful timber trees: besides, the kernels of their nuts are as good as filberts.

Aleurites triloba. A large tree. The kernels of their nuts yield a very pure oil. *Akh-rowt* is the Hindoo name of the tree.

Phascolus lunatus;

Dolichos tetragonolobus, and *gladiatus;*

Carpopogon niveum. These four are all very excellent substitutes for kidney and Windsor beans.

Cultivation of the Sunn Plant (CROTALARIA juncea *of Linnæus), and Preparation of the Fibres of its Bark, called* Sunn *by the People of Bengal.*

IT is a tall annual, and very generally cultivated over the southern parts of Asia for the fibres of its bark, which may be called the hemp of those countries where it is cultivated. A very full and particular account of the various methods of cultivation, &c. will be found in Wissett's book on the cultivation and preparation of Hemp and Sunn, published in London in 1804; and some remarks by myself in one of the volumes of the Transactions of the Society for the Encouragement of Arts, &c. I will, however, give a brief statement of the usual modes in Bengal; and add such remarks as I think may be of use to improve the quality of the fibre, which is naturally excellent; probably not inferior to the hemp of Europe.

When cultivated during the rains, which is very generally the case in Bengal, an elevated, rich, friable soil is required; which ought to be well ploughed, or otherwise dressed, to free it of weeds and bring it into good tilth. The seed, about eighty pounds weight to the acre, is sown when the first showers fall about the beginning of the periodical rains; and covered in by the harrow, or any other mode. Little or no more is required, as the plant grows so rapidly as to keep down the weeds itself. By August the plant will be in flower, and from five to eight, or more, feet high. When the fibre is required of a fine quality, it is pulled in this stage of its growth; if strength is required, it must stand till in seed, or even till the seed is ripe. When thought fit for the purposes intended, it is cut, or pulled up by the root. Some recommend steeping it immediately when it is pulled, in standing fresh water, &c. as with hemp in Europe: others, and I believe with good reason, recommend its being dried for some time previous to being steeped: upon this head much will be found in Mr. Wissett's book.

The length of time required for steeping, depends on the season of the year, the heat of the weather, and the state of the water. In August and September, from two to three days is generally sufficient. When that is accomplished (which will be known by the bark separating freely from the stalk—but not longer, as over-steeping weakens the fibre much), the people employed in the work stand in the water in which the plant has been steeped; each takes a handful, which he breaks in one or more places; after having washed off any mud or filth, he then grasps it by one end between both hands, and beats it against the surface of the water, which quickly removes the reed from the fibres; when the parcel is turned, and the other end treated in the same manner.

This simple mode is very generally followed by the natives over Bengal; and not only removes the reed quickly, but washes the fibres at the same time. Hence the Sunn of this country (Bengal) is always whiter than that of Bombay or Salsette, though they are the produce of the same plant:

and is probably the most expeditious mode that can be devised; but, unfortunately, the fibres are always so materially entangled, that they give but little support to each other, until by the heckle they are in some measure restored to their natural situation, with the loss of nearly one half of the original quantity; which renders the heckled sunn of Bengal high priced.

About Bombay, the Salsette sunn, or hemp, as it is generally called, is reckoned particularly good; not inferior to the best Russian hemp; and that is all peeled by the hand. Numerous experiments made by me, induce a belief that its superiority depends on the peeling.

In that country, and in many other parts of India, the seed is sown toward the close of the rains, when a stronger soil is said to be required. In other respects, the management is the same.

Method of cultivating the Paat Plants (Corchorus olitorius, *and* capsularis) *in Bengal, and cleaning the Fibres of their Bark, there called* Jute.

LIKE sunn, it delights in a free, open, rich soil, which is rather moist, but not so low as to be readily overflowed during heavy rains. The ground requires to be well ploughed, cleaned of weeds, and reduced as fine as possible. The seed (about ten pounds weight to the English acre) is generally sown in April or May, with the first showers, before the periodical rains begin, which generally happen in June. The young plants require frequent weedings, till about eight or ten inches high: they are then strong enough to keep down the weeds, their growth being rapid.

In August or September they will be in full blossom, with many of the capsules almost full grown. Now is the usual time for cutting the crop; an operation performed with the

common country sickle, a few inches above the ground. If the plants are very long, they are cut in two, to render them more manageable. They are then laid in heaps in the field, for four or five days; during which period the leaves are detached; and the rest probably undergoes a necessary fermentation, or heating, which the strong, almost woody, stems may require to soften them, before committed to the water. When this operation is finished, the plants are tied up in bundles of about eighteen inches in circumference, and committed to the steeping process, as for sunn, in stagnant fresh water, for from eight to sixteen days, according to the age of the plants, the quality of the water, and state of the weather—(heat hastens the process much.) The operation is known to be completed by the same signs hemp and flax are judged by in Europe—viz. by the bark parting readily from the stalks. The bundles are now divided into handfuls: these are grasped by the operator, who stands about knee-deep in the water, and beats on the surface of that fluid; turning and rubbing it frequently with the hands, till the boan or stalks, and the medullary connecting substance, which unites the fibres of the bark, are entirely removed, leaving the horle, or clean fibres, in his hands. These are laid even, spread out upon the grass, or hung upon ropes exposed to the sun-shine, till perfectly dry: then twisted up into bundles, and carried to market, or put by for use.

A stout reddish variety of this species (*C. capsularis*) has been introduced from China into Bengal, under the name *China hemp*; the material of which is more abundant, and every way better. One biggah (a third of an English acre) was sown with two pounds and a half of seed on the 18th of May, 1808; and on the 9th of September it was cut, when most of the blossoms had decayed, and the capsules were fully formed. The biggah yielded 332 pounds avoirdupois of the clean fibre. The whole expense of cultivation and cleaning, the rent of the land excluded, was five rupees and a half: and if a rupee and a half is

added for the rent of the biggah of ground, the whole will be seven rupees; which is a little more than five shillings for the hundred pounds weight. It is the seed of this sort that accompanies this memorandum.

R.

Queries relative to Africa.

§ 1. *Geography, Statistics, &c.*

1. WHAT is the extent of territory belonging to the state, and what are its boundaries?

2. Between what parallels of latitude is it comprised?

3. What is the general aspect of the country; mountainous or champaign; dry or marshy; open or covered with wood?

4. What is the nature and temperature of the climate, the range of the thermometer, the course of the seasons? &c.

5. What is the general nature of the soil? Is it fertile or otherwise; and what are the particular purposes to which it appears best adapted?

6. What are its mineral productions, and in what degree are the natives acquainted with their use?

7. What animals are found there, either in a wild or domestic state?

8. What are its chief vegetable productions?

9. Does it contain any navigable rivers? What is their size, and the extent and direction of their course? Do they abound with fish, and of what kind?

10. Is the country well supplied with fresh water, and by what means?

11. What are the chief towns, their latitude and longitude, their extent and population?

12. What is the population of the state, and of what description of persons does the population consist?

13. Is it increasing, stationary, or diminishing, and by what circumstances does it appear to be affected?

14. Whence do the people derive their subsistence? Do they follow, and to what extent, the fishing, hunting, pastoral, agricultural, or commercial life?

15. What are the articles which they cultivate?

16. Of what improvements is their agricultural system susceptible, either by introducing new implements of husbandry; by inducing the cultivation of indigenous plants which have hitherto been neglected; by importing new seeds and plants; or in any other way?

17. Are there any species of timber, applicable to the purposes of ship-building, house-building, cabinet work, &c. which might be brought thence?

18. How are lands occupied? Do they descend by inheritance, or do they form a common stock?

19. Is there much waste land?

20. Are lands ever leased or sold, and on what terms?

21. How are the lands cultivated?

22. Would it be possible for Europeans to obtain lands to cultivate, and what security would they have for the validity of the grant?

23. What facilities would such persons enjoy of obtaining labourers?

24. What is the nature of the commerce carried on by the people of the country; and how is it carried on? By barter, or by a fixed medium of exchange?

25. Have they any and what standards of weights and measures?

26. What are the foreign articles for which there is a demand among them; and what have they to give in exchange?

27. In what way may their commerce be best enlarged?

§ 2. *Government, Political Institutions and Relations, Wars, Laws, &c.*

28. What is the nature and form of the government, and how is it administered?

29. If monarchical, is the power of the monarch absolute? Whence is he supposed to derive it; and how is it enforced?

30. Does his authority descend by inheritance, or is it conferred by election; and who in that case are the electors?

31. If the authority of the monarch be limited, what are its limitations, and how are they enforced?

32. Is there any senate or legislative body? How are its members appointed, and what are their functions and privileges?

33. What are the distinctions of rank, and on what are they founded?

34. Do the superior ranks consist of hereditary chiefs? Are they appointed by the prince; or are they the representatives of the people?

35. Is their character different from that of the people at large?

36. Are they at variance with the prince or with each other, and how are their disputes carried on?

37. Are the people submissive to the Government, or are they prone to tumult and revolt? What are their political grievances?

38. Are revolutions of government frequent?

39. Has the monarch any civil officer or agents to whom he delegates a part of his authority?

40. What are his revenues, and how are they collected?

41. Has he any military force? What are their number, pay, and privileges?

42. Are wars frequent? What is in general the cause of them, and how are they conducted?

43. Have wars which are made for the purpose of carrying people off any distinguishing name?

44. Are there any permanent or hereditary feuds between particular families, tribes, or nations?

45. Are neighbouring tribes tributary to or confederated with each other, and what are the nature and terms of their union?

46. Would it be practicable to produce confederations among neighbouring nations, on the ground of preventing or repelling the lawless aggressions of other states, and promoting the general security of person and property?

47. Are prisoners taken in war exchanged, and on what terms?

48. What are the nature and the objects of the criminal law, and how are crimes tried and punished?

49. Has the judge an interest in condemning the accused?

50. In what cases and to what extent is the family of a convicted person involved in his punishment?

51. What is the nature of the civil code, and how are its provisions administered?

52. How is the knowledge of the laws and institutions promulgated and preserved?

§ 3. *General Appearance, Dispositions, Morals, Religion, &c. of Inhabitants.*

53. What is in general the external appearance of the inhabitants? Are they well-made, tall, strong, vigorous, active, or otherwise?

54. Have they any peculiar cast of countenance?

55. Are they gay and cheerful, or melancholy, in their disposition?

56. Are they lively and ingenious, or dull and stupid?

57. Are their affections warm or cold?

58. Are they quick and impetuous, or slow and deliberate, in their manners and conduct?

59. Is hospitality practised among them, and to what extent?

60. Is personal courage a part of their character?

61. Are they industrious, and how is their industry exerted?

62. What is their moral character in general, and particularly in regard to truth or falsehood, humanity or inhumanity, generosity or churlishness?

63. Is any course of private conduct or any particular action reckoned infamous?

64. What is the nature of their religious belief?

65. What is their mode of worship?

66. What influence do their religious tenets and observances appear to have on their conduct and character?

67. Is there any order of men who may be denominated priests; and what are their real or supposed qualifications, and what their profits and privileges?

68. Are they connected with or dependant on the state; and what influence do they mutually exercise over each other?

69. What is their influence with the people?

70. Are human sscrifices frequent, and to what extent, and for what purposes are they practised?

71. How are the victims selected?

72. Can persons condemned to be sacrificed be redeemed?

§ 4. *Intellectual Capacity, Arts, Sciences, Manufactures, Education, &c.*

73. What is the general state of intellectual improvement? Is it progressive or otherwise, and by what causes is its progress promoted or retarded?

74. Are there any peculiarities in the intellectual character of the people which seem to denote a natural inferiority to Europeans?

75. Do they exhibit proofs of genius and invention?

76. Do individuals among them arrive at any eminence of character, and how has that distinction been attained?

77. What is their particular language or dialect? To which of the tongues of other nations does it bear the most resemblance; and is it a written language?—N. B. Endeavour to collect a vocabulary of terms of the most frequent occurrence.

78. Have they any knowledge of arithmetic; or how do they reckon numbers or value for commercial purposes?

79. What is the state of literature among them?

80. Are they given to poetical composition?

81. Are schools established for the education of youth? How are they supported and conducted; and in what branches of knowledge are their youth instructed?

82. What is the state of arts and manufactures among them?

83. With what mechanical pursuits are they acquainted?

84. In what degree does a division of labour subsist among them?

85. What are the amusements of the people?

86. To what diseases are they liable, and what means are used for their cure?

87. Are there any physicians among them, and do they pretend to supernatural powers?

§ 5. *Slavery and the Slave Trade.*

88. What proportion of the population may be considered as in a state of servitude?

89. What is the nature of that servitude, and how far does the power of the master extend?

90. In what way is that power, in point of fact, generally exercised?

91. What is the comparative condition, as to political rights and domestic enjoyments, of those who are free, and of those who are in a state of servitude?

92. Is there any, and what difference between the mode or degree of the labour required from slaves and from freemen?

93. Are those who are in a state of servitude driven, or otherwise compelled, to work; and to what extent, and for how many hours a day?

94. Are those persons who are employed in a state of servitude in Africa liable, and in what cases, to be sold by their masters?

95. By what means are free persons reduced to a state of slavery?

96. Is the slavery existing in the country perpetual and

hereditary, or only temporary; and in the latter case, what is its period?

97. In what manner may Slaves lawfully obtain their freedom?

98. What is the present state of the Slave Trade carried on by Europeans?

99. Do the abolition laws of Great Britain and America appear to be effectual to their object; or are they evaded, and by what means?

100. By what European nations is the Slave Trade at present carried on from the Coast; and to what extent by each?

101. What are the sentiments of the natives respecting the Abolition of the Slave Trade?

102. Do they shew a disposition to have recourse to other means of procuring a supply of those European articles to which they have been accustomed? What are those means, and to what extent are they likely to be effectual?

103. Has the Abolition of the Slave Trade had any effect in lessening the frequency of wars, village-breakings, kidnappings, accusations, and condemnations for witchcraft and other crimes?

104. Have many Slaves been brought to the Coast for sale since the Slave Trade has ceased?

105. How have they been disposed of? Have they been employed in cultivation, or in any other way?

106. In short, what has been or is likely to be, the influence of the Abolition of the Slave Trade on the comfort and improvement of the different classes of the people?

§. 6. *Miscellaneous.*

107. Is any opinion of meanness or disgrace attached to any particular occupation, or to any particular order of men?

108. In what estimation are women held, and what is their employment?

109. Is polygamy practised, and to what extent, and with what visible effects?

110. What is the authority of husbands over wives, of parents over children, of masters over servants?

111. In what estimation are Europeans held?

112. Are any historical traces of the people to be obtained, either from written records or from tradition?

113. Are there any traditions current among them, which seem to correspond with the accounts which are contained in Scripture?

114. What are the best routes to be taken and measures to be pursued, by strangers endeavouring farther to explore the state of the same country?

S.

Substance of a Communication made by HENRY MEREDITH, *Esq. to the* SECRETARY, *dated Winnebah, 20th December* 1809, *and containing Answers to the "Queries relative to Africa," as they respect that District of the Gold Coast called the Agoona Country, in which Winnebah is situated.*

THE Agoona country, of which Winnebah forms a part, extends about twenty miles in length from east to west, and about fifteen miles in breadth; being situated between 5°. and 5°. 30′. of north latitude. The sea forms its boundary on the south: on the west, north, and east it is bounded by the countries of Akron, Adgumakoon, Assin, Akim, and Akra. The aspect of the country varies considerably. In some places it is flat, and rather marshy; in others, it rises into hills: in some, it runs into open plains of considerable

extent; while in others it is richly covered with wood. The climate is esteemed to be comparatively healthy: it certainly is more temperate than that of many other places on the same line of coast. The height of the thermometer is usually from 75°. to 85°. In the rainy season it has been observed as low as 73°. The seasons may be divided into the Tornado, the Rainy, and the Dry. The tornado * season commences in March, and continues about two months. The rainy season begins about the end of May, and ends in August. The dry season follows, and continues, with trifling variations, throughout the remainder of the year; that

* "Tornados are violent gusts of wind, which come from the eastward, attended by thunder, lightning, and, in general, heavy rain. The violence of the wind seldom continues longer than half an hour; but the scene during the time it continues may be considered as one of the most awfully sublime in nature."—"Its approach is foretold by certain appearances, which enable people to be on their guard. A dark cloud, not larger than 'a man's hand,' is just observed on the verge of the eastern horizon. Faint flashes of lightning, attended sometimes by very distant thunder, are then seen to vibrate in quick succession. The clouds in that quarter become gradually more dense and black; they also increase in bulk, and appear as if heaped on each other. The thunder, which at first was scarcely noticed, or heard only at long intervals, draws nearer by degrees, and becomes more frequent and tremendous. The blackness of the clouds increases, until a great part of the heavens seems wrapped in the darkness of midnight: and it is rendered still more awful, by being contrasted with a gleam of light which generally appears in the western horizon. Immediately before the attack of the tornado, there is either a light breeze, scarcely perceptible, from the westward, or, as is more common, the air is perfectly calm and unusually still. Men and animals fly for shelter; and, 'while expectation stands in horror,' the thundering storm in an instant bursts from the clouds. It is impossible for language to convey a just idea of the uproar of the elements which then takes place." "The temperature of the air is greatly affected by a tornado—"(it becomes cool and clear); "and it is not unusual for the thermometer to suffer a depression of eight or ten degrees within two or three minutes after the storm has come on. After a tornado, the body feels invigorated and more active, and the mind recovers much of that elasticity which long-continued heat tends to impair."—The above is taken, with two or three slight verbal changes, from Dr. Winterbottom's able and accurate Account of Sierra Leone, p. 24, &c.

is to say, from August till March. About the end of December or beginning of January in every year, and sometimes in February, a land wind of a very peculiar nature, called the Harmattan, continues to blow for four, six, or eight days, and sometimes for a fortnight. It is chiefly remarkable for its cold and chilling effects on the human frame, and for the very extraordinary degree of dryness which it produces; the process of evaporation, while it lasts, proceeding with astonishing rapidity *.

Near the sea the soil is in many places light and sandy, and therefore unfavourable to the cultivation of most articles of tropical produce †. And where it is of a different description, many plants are found not to thrive, in consequence, as is supposed, partly of the coldness and humidity of the sea breezes, or south-west winds, which meet with nothing on the shore to mitigate their severity; and partly because the air is there impregnated with saline particles thrown up by a constant and generally violent surf. About two or three miles from the sea, the soil is found to be much more productive; and it gradually improves as it recedes, till, at the distance of six or eight miles from the shore, it is so fertile as to be well adapted for the growth of almost every article of tropical culture. The climate at this distance is also improved, and so temperate as to favour the cultivation of European plants and seeds. The articles which succeed best near the sea, are rice, sugar-cane, and cotton.

The only mineral production which has hitherto been discovered in this country, is gold; their method of procuring which the natives endeavour to conceal from Europeans. They are obviously very ignorant of the proper means of searching for mineral bodies, or of working them when discovered.

* For a full account of this singular phenomenon, see the work of Dr. Winterbottom, already referred to, p. 39, &c.

† Such a soil and situation, it is apprehended, would be peculiarly suited to the cultivation of the sea-island cotton of Georgia.

The domestic animals are sheep, goats, hogs, dogs, cats, common fowls, &c. Those in a wild state are, tigers, leopards, hyenas, buffaloes, hogs, deer, hares, ant-bears, musk-cats, squirrels, alligators, monkeys, snakes, &c. &c.

There is but little timber in this country applicable to ship-building; but there are several kinds well adapted for house-building and cabinet ware, and other useful and ornamental purposes; though not in any great abundance. Besides these, its chief vegetable productions are, maize (of which there are two crops in the year) millet, yams, cassada, sweet potatoes, plantanes, bananas, sugar-cane, rice, cotton, pepper and pulse of various kinds, cabbages, ochra, eschallots, &c. besides oranges, pine-apples, and other tropical fruits. All these articles are more or less cultivated by the natives of Agoona. Their land, however, is for the most part capable of producing all other articles usually reared between the tropics. Their present system of agriculture, indeed, is very rude and defective; but it might be greatly improved, by introducing among them horses and horned cattle, and proper implements of husbandry, as well as useful seeds and plants; provided they had at the same time the benefit of the enlightened example and instruction of intelligent Europeans, who might be induced to engage in agricultural pursuits; and provided, also, their industry were excited and encouraged by suitable rewards.

At present, all the land in the country forms a common stock; and no part of it can be appropriated by any individual, except during the time he actually cultivates it. There are extensive tracts of unoccupied land; not above a tenth part of the whole being in cultivation. Any native of Agoona, who chooses to clear and cultivate any portion of this unoccupied land, becomes the exclusive possessor of it for the time: but if he should afterwards allow it to lie waste, he ceases to have any peculiar claim to it: it may be occupied by any other individual. Among the natives, no such thing is practised as the lease or sale of lands; except in the case of Europeans, who sometimes for five or six pounds may obtain the appropriation of a consider-

able tract of land. Their title to lands so obtained is not likely to be disturbed; but, in the present state of society, unless they had the means of protecting themselves, if necessary, by force, the produce which they might raise could not be considered as altogether secure. Their best means of protection would be to have a considerable number of hired cultivators in constant pay, who would serve the double purpose of cultivating the soil, and protecting the fruits of their labour from pillage. Labourers may easily be had at the rate of from ten shillings to twelve shillings and sixpence per month.

Agoona contains no navigable river; but it is tolerably supplied with fresh water, by means of rivulets which flow through it, and branch off in a variety of directions.

The chief towns are Winnebah (or Simpa), Agoona, Bereac, and Fettah. Their present extent and population fall very short of what they were before the late desolating expedition to the Coast, which was made by the Asiantees*. Indeed, the whole population of the state cannot now be estimated at more than ten thousand souls, of which number seven thousand may be considered as women and children. The country, however, has begun to recover from the effects of that disastrous war; and its population appears to be on the increase. Immediately on the sea-coast the people derive their subsistence chiefly from fishing; in the other parts of the country, from hunting and agriculture. A few, and only a few, gain their livelihood by trade. This trade chiefly consists in purchasing from Europeans, in exchange for gold and a few other articles, cowries, East-India cottons, iron, lead, spirits, tobacco, tobacco-pipes, guns, gunpowder, vessels of brass, and woollen and cotton goods of British manufacture, which they afterwards barter

* The Asiantees are a powerful people, living in the interior, whose king, being provoked by the conduct of the Fantees, entered their country about three years ago, with an army of not less than fifty or sixty thousand men, and spread ravage and devastation throughout a great part of the Gold Coast.

with their countrymen, or with persons from the interior, for gold, provisions of all kinds, palm wine, palm oil, &c. &c. Cowries and gold form the current medium of exchange: forty cowries make a string; fifty strings a bead, which is equal to one ackie of gold; and sixteen ackies make an ounce, the value of which is usually estimated at four pounds. They have no fixed standard of weights and measures.

As to the means of increasing their trade, they obviously consist in opening a free intercourse with the interior; in introducing an improved system of agriculture, and the arts of civilized life; in enlarging their knowledge and exciting their industry; and, above all, in establishing such a government and police as shall secure them in the enjoyment of what they may acquire by their exertions.

The government, political institutions, and laws of Agoona resemble, in a great degree, those which are described in the account of the Fantees, inserted in the Appendix to the Third Report, p. 41. In some cases, the caboceers, or chiefs of petty districts, are hereditary; in others, they are elected by the people. Those chiefs occasionally assume a despotic power, but in general they do not retain it long; the people frequently revolting in such cases, and expelling or otherwise punishing the usurper. The chiefs are assisted in the administration of the laws by a kind of judicial senate; the members of which, called Pynins, are chosen by the people from among the elders of the district; and it is their office to hear and decide causes, and pronounce the sentence of the law. They must be considered as having an interest in condemning persons who are accused, as they have a share of all fines and forfeitures. The Pynins are the only depositaries of the laws; and in order to preserve and transmit the memory of them, they hold frequent meetings, at which the laws are promulgated, or rather rehearsed.

Almost all crimes, great and small, are punishable by fine or slavery; which, indeed, are almost the same punishment;

for if the convict cannot pay his fine, he becomes by law a slave. Even murder (a crime of rare occurrence), though the law says it shall be punished with death, may be compensated by seven slaves. All criminal charges are tried by the Pynins, who hear and weigh the evidence produced. But if there be no evidence, the cause is decided by a species of ordeal, called *Doom*, which consists in administering to the person accused a certain quantity of the bark of a tree deemed poisonous. If he retain it on his stomach, he is pronounced guilty: if otherwise, innocent. The refusal to submit to this ordeal is considered as a decisive proof of guilt, and the judges proceed accordingly. The Pynins, who combine the offices both of judge and jury, are supposed to be very accessible to bribes; and no person who is liberal in his gifts is likely to be found guilty. In some cases, however, where partiality is strongly suspected, the cause is tried by the Pynins of another district, or referred to the decision of the Governor of the fort.

In the case of convictions for witchcraft, the family of the convict is involved in his punishment: it even extends to all persons residing under his roof, on pretence that all in any way connected with him must possess a certain portion of his malign influence. *Since the abolition of the Slave Trade, however, no convictions of this sort have taken place.*

Hereditary feuds are common among this people; and the way in which they usually proceed in the prosecution of hostilities is, to seize by surprise, and carry off, persons belonging to the state or district with which they are at enmity, or to any state in alliance with it: for they seldom engage in enterprizes of a daring kind; nor is personal courage a striking feature in their character. Almost all their wars are of this predatory description: and the prisoners taken become the slaves of the captors, and are completely at their disposal. They are sometimes killed in the heat of passion, but generally are preserved, with a

view to profit. Prisoners are seldom exchanged. Sometimes two or more Slaves are given for the ransom of an individual; but this is unusual.

The people of this country are black; of the middle stature; in general well made, vigorous, and capable of undergoing great labour. For the most part they have a pleasing and open expression of countenance, and are of a gay and cheerful turn. They manifest a certain slowness of comprehension, when new subjects are brought before them: and yet this is hardly to be ascribed to any peculiar dulness or stupidity, as they shew a sufficient degree of quickness in matters with which they are conversant. They cannot be said to be warm in their affections; and though occasionally violent and impetuous in their temper, yet they are more commonly slow and deliberate in their proceedings. Hospitality is carried among them to a great extent: all strangers and travellers are admitted freely to partake of whatever the family board affords.

The natives of Agoona may be considered, on the whole, as an industrious people; particularly those who are engaged in fishing. With respect to those engaged in agriculture, as all their wants are supplied with little labour, it cannot be expected that, in the existing state of things among them, they should make any great exertions beyond what is necessary to that object.

The moral standard of this people is extremely low. They appear to have no idea of restraint, beyond what their own interests or the dread of punishment imposes; and besides that their laws are both too loosely framed, and too partially executed, to have a very powerful effect in curbing men's passions, it is to be considered that no laws can provide an effectual check for that class of offences which may be comprised under the head of immoralities. They are without any education or discipline of a moral kind; and from their earliest infancy are habituated to examples of inhumanity, fraud, and licentiousness. In short, the moral principle is not cultivated among them: so that there is hardly any act which will attach disgrace

or infamy to the individual, or even bring reproach upon him, if he do but pay the penalty of the law. Their religious system has no tendency whatever to improve their morality. It consists almost entirely in a superstitious dread of suffering from some malign influence, and in the faith they repose in the *Fetishes*, or charms, which are furnished by their Fetishmen, or priests, for the purpose of warding off the dreaded evil. The people in general do not appear to engage in any kind of worship; and although on certain days they abstain from their ordinary employments, yet they assign no reason for this, except that it has been the custom to do so. The Fetishmen, however, who may be considered as an order of priests, engage in certain forms of worship and religious ceremonies; and they are supposed to hold communion with the demon, or *Fetish*, and to obtain from him the knowledge which is requisite for the exercise of their profession, which is, to solve the doubts and perplexities of their followers, and to furnish them with the means of averting evil, either actual or possible. Their profits arise from the presents made to the Fetish by the votaries: these they appropriate to their own use; and they are often of considerable value. The Fetishmen usually connect themselves with the persons in power, and are often serviceable in strengthening the government and enforcing obedience to the laws; as they have great influence among the people, and continue to be respected by them even when the government has fallen into disrepute.

At Winnebah there is an annual sacrifice of a deer made to the Fetish. Human sacrifices take place only when a man of eminence dies. The victims are selected from among the slaves of the deceased, and are generally old and infirm persons. Such sacrifices, however, very seldom occur in Agoona. When a victim has been selected for this purpose, it is believed that he cannot be redeemed.

With respect to intellectual capacity, this people do not discover any natural inferiority to Europeans: at the same time, their attainments are as low as can be imagined; their

minds not being improved by any kind of culture. They are wholly ignorant of letters; and their language, which is the Fantee, has never been reduced to writing. The language itself is soft and harmonious. The following short specimen of it gives the proper names of men and women, according to the day of the week on which they are born.

Day of the Week.	Men.	Women.
Sunday	Quashie	Aquisewa
Monday	Cudjoe.....	Aduah
Tuesday	Quabino	Abinebah
Wednesday ...	Quacow	Eccoah
Thursday.....	Quaw	Abbah
Friday	Cuffee.....	Effuah
Saturday	Quamina.....	Ambah.

Arts and manufactures are in a low state among them. They make canoes, fishing-nets, hooks and lines, hoes, bills, baskets, mats, and various other articles of the same kind; and some of them can work as masons and carpenters.—The amusements of the young consist chiefly in dancing and singing: those more advanced in years amuse themselves by relating the exploits performed in their youth.

The women of this country, as in all countries where polygamy is practised, are in a degraded state. They are literally slaves to the men, and perform almost all the laborious offices; as, grinding corn, procuring fire and water —they do every thing, in short, but fish, and plant corn. The women also generally act both as physicians and surgeons. The prevailing complaints are fevers, flux, rheumatism, and leprosy; for the cure of which they use for the most part certain herbs, which are natives of the country. They sometimes have recourse to bleeding, by means of scarification and cupping; and these operations are performed with much dexterity by the women.

The number of persons in a state of slavery in Agoona is very small: not above one person in forty, or perhaps in

fifty, can be considered as a slave. The power of the master over the slave is absolute, and extends not only to the exaction of whatever labour the slave is capable of performing, but to life itself. The slave is liable to be seized and sold for the debts of his master, or for the payment of any forfeiture to which the sentence of the law may have subjected him. In respect, however, to the common field-labour which they have to perform, there is practically no difference between the slave and the freeman. Their hours of working are the same, and those not strictly regulated; the forenoon only being usually allotted to labour. Nor are the slaves ever driven, or otherwise compelled to work: what they do, they do with willingness.—There is still some Slave Trade carried on by the Dutch, and lately also by the Danes, who continue to reside on the coast. The chief carriers of Slaves from the Gold Coast are the Portuguese. Their great market, however, is on the leeward, or what is called the Slave Coast. Two vessels from Cuba carried off cargoes of Slaves from the Gold Coast in October last.

The continuance of the Slave Trade, though on a reduced scale, by other nations, has greatly impeded the beneficial effects which might have been expected to follow from its abolition by Great Britain; for though the export of Slaves from the Coast be comparatively trifling, yet it serves to keep alive there many of the mal-practices which would otherwise have ceased. What is wanted, therefore, to give this measure its full effect, is an universal abolition of the trade. Even as things are, the natives have become more diligent in seeking for gold, and in procuring other articles wanted by Europeans; and, generally speaking, more industrious; but, still, the partial existence of the Slave Trade is a great bar to industrious exertion. It is also true that accusations and condemnations for crimes, (as witchcraft, &c.), and predatory wars, have been less frequent than they used to be. Kidnapping, or *panyaring*, as it is called, on the Gold Coast, is not much diminished. Personal security, however, is on the whole increased; and this has manifested

itself by increased industry. From these partial improvements, may be inferred the unspeakable and innumerable benefits which must accrue to Africa from a total abolition of the traffic in Slaves.

The foregoing observations embrace but a small portion of what is called the Gold Coast; and although there is throughout the whole much similarity of soil and climate, yet in other respects there are material differences. The Anta country, for instance, which lies between the rivers Ancobra and Succondee, is a rich, woody country, well watered, and well planted. The timber here is fit for every purpose. It abounds in gold and other metals, in a greater degree than the neighbouring states. The cultivation of the soil is more attended to than in many parts of the coast; and it has many very convenient creeks and harbours.

The river Ancobra separates this state from the kingdom of Apollonia. Here the country is still better watered by lakes and rivers; it is more flat, and better adapted for the growth of rice, sugar-cane, and all those articles which require a moist soil. The great disadvantage under which Apollonia labours, is, that the surf along its coast is so violent that it is impossible to land without danger. The form of its government is despotic: a circumstance which certainly prevents many of those irregularities and abuses which prevail in other districts.

As we recede from the sea, however, and advance into the interior, the state of things appears to be much more favourable than it can be said to be on any part of the coast. We witness a life of more industry and more happiness; and a great improvement, not only in these important respects, but in soil, climate, and other natural advantages. In short, the capabilities of Africa can be appreciated but in a very inadequate degree, if we confine our observations to the sea coast, and do not proceed inland. The difference, indeed, is visible even a few miles from the shore; but it is still greater the farther we advance into the country. There

is no valuable article of tropical culture which might not be raised in this country in great abundance; while its population stands in need of our manufactures, and is accustomed to their use. And when it is considered what the hand of industry has done in the West Indies—in the pestilential swamps of Guiana, for instance—what may not fairly be expected from the rich hills and extensive plains of this country, blessed as it is with a luxuriant soil, and comparatively healthy climate?

THE END.

FIFTH

REPORT

OF THE

DIRECTORS

OF THE

AFRICAN INSTITUTION,

READ

AT THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING ON THE
27th OF MARCH, 1811.

TO WHICH IS ADDED,

AN APPENDIX,

AND

A LIST OF SUBSCRIBERS.

LONDON:

PRINTED BY ELLERTON AND HENDERSON, JOHNSON'S COURT,
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1811.

(Price Two Shillings.)

At a General Meeting of the Subscribers to the AFRICAN INSTITUTION, held at the Freemasons' Tavern on Wednesday the 27th March, 1811,

His Royal Highness the DUKE *of* GLOUCESTER, *Patron and President*, in the Chair;

A REPORT of the Proceedings of the Board of Directors, for the last Year, having been read,

Resolved unanimously,

That the Thanks of the Meeting be given to the Directors, and that the substance of the Report now read be printed.

Resolved unanimously,

That the best Thanks of this Meeting be given to His Royal Highness the DUKE of GLOUCESTER, for his unwearied attention to the interests of this Institution.

Resolved unanimously,

That the Thanks of this Meeting be given to Mr. MACAULAY, for his able and gratuitous services.

PATRON AND PRESIDENT.

His Royal Highness the Duke of Gloucester.

VICE-PRESIDENTS.

His Grace the Archbishop of Canterbury.
The Marquis of Lansdowne.
Earl Selkirk.
Earl Spencer.
Earl Grosvenor.
Earl Grey.
Earl Moira.
Viscount Milton.
Viscount Valentia.
The Lord Bishop of Durham.
The Lord Bishop of Bath and Wells.
The Lord Bishop of St. David's.
Right Honourable Lord Holland.
Right Honourable Lord Grenville.
Right Honourable Lord Erskine.
Right Honourable Lord Gambier.
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Right Honourable Nicholas Vansittart.
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*** Subscriptions are received by the following Bankers, viz. Messrs. Down, Thornton, Free, and Down, No. 1, Bartholomew-lane; Messrs. Hoare, Barnett, and Co., No. 62, Lombard-street; Messrs. Smith, Payne, and Smiths, George-street, Mansion House; Messrs. Hoares, 37, Fleet-street; Messrs. Drummonds, Charing Cross; Messrs. Ransom, Morland, and Co., Pall Mall; by the Treasurer, Henry Thornton, Esq.; by the Secretary, or by the Collector, 26, Birchin-lane; to whom, or to the Secretary, Communications relative to the Institution may be addressed.

N. B. The First, Second, Third, and Fourth Reports of the Institution, containing a full exposition of its design, a copy of the Laws and Regulations adopted for its government, and a full account of its proceedings, may be obtained from Mr. Stokes, as above, or from J. Hatchard, 190, Piccadilly.

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FIFTH REPORT,

&c. &c.

NEARLY the whole of the last Report of the Directors was employed in detailing the extent to which the African Slave Trade had revived in the preceding year, and the means which had been adopted by them with a view to repress it. The present Report will consist, almost exclusively, of similar details; the evil in question having increased to a magnitude which has required the almost undivided attention of the Board. The civilization and improvement of Africa are indeed the great ends which the African Institution proposed to pursue. But what rational expectation can be formed of any material progress in the attainment of those ends, while the Slave Trade continues to flourish? This traffic stands opposed to all improvement. The passions which it excites and nourishes, and the acts of fraud, rapine, and blood, to which alone it owes its success, have a direct tendency to brutalize the human character, and to obstruct every peace-

ful and beneficial pursuit. Any advance in civilization is hopeless, where neither property nor person is secure for a moment.

On the Coast of Africa, the same melancholy scene has been exhibited during the last year, which the Directors had the pain of describing in their former Report. The Coast has swarmed with Slave ships, chiefly under Portugueze and Spanish colours. These colours have, in numerous instances, been proved to be only a disguise to conceal British and American property; and there is strong ground to believe, that this would be found to be very generally the case, if the rules of evidence, in the Prize Courts of this country, always admitted of the investigation necessary to ascertain the fact.

To confirm this statement, it would be sufficient to refer to the Records of our Prize Courts, and particularly to those of the Vice-Admiralty Court at Sierra Leone, in which, during the last year, according to information received by the Directors, about twenty Slave ships have been condemned, on satisfactory proof either of their being American or British property, or of their having cleared out from a British port.

An additional confirmation is derived from the fact of not a single appeal having hitherto

been prosecuted, in the superior Courts of Prize in this country, from the decisions of the Vice-Admiralty Court of Sierra Leone.

It seems unnecessary to detail minutely all the information which the Directors have received, on this subject, since the last meeting of the Society. Suffice it to say, that accounts from various quarters, from the Coast of Africa, from the West Indies, from the Brazils, from the United States, and from other places, concur with certain judicial proceedings which have taken place in this country, to prove, that a very considerable trade in Slaves has been carried on of late; and a large portion of it, by means of the capital and credit of British subjects.

As soon as the Directors had ascertained this point to their satisfaction, it was resolved to bring the matter before Parliament. The last session, however, was too far advanced to admit of their obtaining any legislative enactment for the repression of the evil. All that could be done, therefore, was to engage the attention of Government to the subject, by an Address; and to induce both Houses of Parliament to pledge themselves to the adoption of such farther legislative provisions, in the ensuing session, as might be necessary for giving full effect to the Acts already passed for abolishing the Slave Trade.

Resolutions to this effect were moved on the

15th of June, 1810, in the House of Commons, by Mr. Brougham, and were adopted without one dissenting voice. An Address to the same effect was moved in the House of Lords on the 18th of June, by Lord Holland, and adopted with the same unanimity. This Address was as follows:

"Ordered, *nem. diss.* That an humble Address be presented to his Majesty, representing to his Majesty, that we have taken into our serious consideration the papers which his Majesty was graciously pleased to communicate to us on the African Slave Trade.

"That, while we acknowledge with gratitude the endeavours which his Majesty has been pleased to use, in compliance with the wishes of his faithful Parliament, to induce Foreign Nations to concur in relinquishing that disgraceful commerce, we have to express our deep regret that these efforts have been attended with so little success.

"That we most heartily beseech his Majesty, to persevere in those measures which may tend to induce his Allies, and such other Foreign States as he may be able to negociate with, to co-operate with this Country in a general Abolition of the Slave Trade, and to concur in the adoption of such measures as may assist in the effectual execution of the laws already passed for that purpose.

"That we most humbly pray his Majesty, that he will be graciously pleased to direct the commanders of his ships and vessels of war, the officers of his Customs, and all other persons in his service, whose situation enables them to detect and suppress any clandestine or fraudulent practices, by which persons may have contrived to carry on the detestable traffic in Slaves, in contempt of the authority of Parliament, and in violation of the laws of the land, effectually to check and put a stop to the same."

The following were the Resolutions moved by Mr. Brougham.

Resolved, "That this House has learnt with the greatest surprise and indignation, that certain persons in this country have recently been guilty of evading the prohibitions of the Acts abolishing the African Slave Trade, and that this House will, early in the next session, take into its consideration such measures as may effectually prevent such daring violations of the law.

"That an humble Address be presented to his Majesty, representing to his Majesty, that this House has taken into its serious consideration the papers which his Majesty was graciously pleased to cause to be laid before this House, upon the subject of the African Slave Trade.

"That while this House acknowledges with

gratitude the endeavours which his Majesty has been pleased to use, in compliance with the wishes of Parliament, to induce Foreign Nations to concur in relinquishing that disgraceful commerce; this House has to express its deep regret, that those efforts have been attended with so little success.

"That this House does most earnestly beseech his Majesty to persevere in those measures which may tend to induce his Allies, and such other Foreign States as he may be enabled to negociate with, to co-operate with this country in a general Abolition of the Slave Trade, and to concur in the adoption of such measures as may assist in the effectual execution of the Laws already passed for that purpose.

"That this House has learnt with the greatest surprise and indignation, that certain persons in this country have not scrupled to continue, in a clandestine and fraudulent manner, the detestable traffic in Slaves.

"And that this House most humbly prays his Majesty, that he will be graciously pleased to cause to be given to the commanders of his Majesty's ships and vessels of war, the officers of his Majesty's Customs, and the other persons in his Majesty's service, whose situation enables them to detect, and suppress those abuses,

such orders as may effectually check practices, equally contemptuous to the authority of Parliament, and derogatory to the interests and honour of the country."

No sooner had the present session of Parliament commenced, than the Directors resumed the consideration of the measures which it might be expedient to propose to the Legislature, on the subject of the Slave Trade.

After mature deliberation, it was resolved, that a Bill should be introduced, which, without anticipating or interfering with any ulterior measures of regulation, might mark the trafficking in Slaves as a crime, and affix to that crime a suitable punishment. The general nature of the measure may be collected from the following Resolutions of the Directors, viz.

Resolved, "That it would be proper to propose to Parliament, to make any direct act of dealing in Slaves a clergiable felony, and punishable as such with transportation, not exceeding fourteen years, or imprisonment and hard labour, at the discretion of the judge, for not less than three years, nor exceeding seven years.

"That this punishment shall be considered to attach upon any owner, part owner, factor or agent, freighter or shipper, captain, mate, supercargo or surgeon, knowingly and wilfully employed in fitting out or navigating for the

purpose of the Slave Trade any ship, or vessel, or craft, or boat, whether British or Foreign, although no actual dealing in Slaves shall have taken place; also to all persons residing in any British Fort, Settlement, or Factory, or within the jurisdiction of the British laws, and to all British subjects wheresoever residing or being, who shall kidnap, carry off, or procure, whether by fraud, violence, or purchase, or who shall forcibly confine, any person, for the purpose of selling or employing the same as a Slave, contrary to the provisions of the Acts of Parliament, already passed for abolishing the Slave Trade.

"That all persons knowingly and wilfully aiding or abetting in any such transaction, as petty officer or seaman on board any ship so employed as aforesaid; or otherwise knowingly and wilfully assisting or promoting any such transaction;—and all persons knowingly and wilfully insuring, or causing to be insured, any Slaves or Slave ships, or any ships or goods to be employed in the Slave Trade; or knowingly and wilfully lending or advancing money, for any such purpose, by bottomry, respondentia, or otherwise, shall be deemed guilty of a misdemeanour, and not as accessaries to the felony, and shall be punished with fine and imprisonment."

A Bill founded on these Resolutions has been brought into the House of Commons, and has passed through several of its stages without having encountered the smallest opposition.

And here the Directors would pause for one moment, to express the exultation which they feel in contemplating the revolution that has been produced in the public sentiment respecting this great question. The nature and magnitude of the change can be duly estimated by those only who had an opportunity of observing the difficulties with which the leaders in the cause of Abolition had to contend, at the commencement and in the progress of their undertaking; and who have now the satisfaction of seeing them supported with unexampled unanimity in Parliament, as well as of hearing the Slave Trade almost universally reprobated, and the efforts which have been made to effect its abolition as universally extolled.

The members of the Institution may well feel encouraged, by such an example, not to relax their efforts, but to persevere actively and unremittingly in the cause in which they have embarked. An extensive field lies before them; and benefits of the most momentous kind to Africa and to the world can hardly fail to crown their persevering exertions.

The Directors need hardly point out to

the meeting, the many advantages which are likely to flow from the operation of the Bill lately brought into Parliament, should it pass, as they have no doubt it will, into a law *.

It is obvious, that, while the punishment of trading in Slaves is confined to confiscations and pecuniary mulcts, the only consideration with the individuals who are still unprincipled enough to embark in it will be, whether the profits of their crime be more than adequate to the pecuniary loss which they risk by the commission of it.

This view of the subject has been exemplified on a variety of occasions, and it is strikingly confirmed in a letter received a few weeks since from Mr. Smith, the acting Judge of the Vice-Admiralty Court at Sierra Leone, dated 12th December, 1810. This gentleman expresses himself as follows:

"I have had my hands pretty full of Admiralty business lately; but it appears to me, that hardly any thing will put a stop to this abominable traffic. The profits are so extremely high, that if they save one cargo out of three, they will still make money."

Such being the case, it became necessary that a punishment of a very different nature should be attached to this crime. And the Di-

* See Appendix T.

rectors cannot but hope that the risk of an arraignment and trial for felony, will do more to deter men possessing capital, from engaging in the Slave Trade, than the infliction of the severest fines.

The Directors will next proceed to state what has been done with a view to the restriction, or entire prevention of the Foreign Slave Trade.

At the time when the Society last met, great doubts were entertained, whether slave ships, trading under American colours, could be subjected to condemnation in our Prize Courts: and the prevailing opinion then was, that some express stipulations between the two Governments were previously necessary. The question, however, has since been happily decided in the affirmative.

In the month of July last, the case of the Amedie, an American slave ship, captured by a British ship of war, a case on which six others depended, was brought before the Privy Council, the supreme court for matters of prize in this country, by appeal from the Vice-Admiralty Court of Tortola, in which the vessel and cargo had been condemned to the captors. The judgment of the Court was pronounced by Sir W. Grant, Master of the Rolls, in the following terms, viz.

"This ship must be considered as being employed at the time of capture in carrying Slaves from the coast of Africa to a Spanish colony. We think that this was evidently the original plan and purpose of the voyage, notwithstanding the pretence set up to veil the true intention. The Claimant, however, who is an American, complains of the capture, and demands from us the restitution of property of which he alleges that he has been unjustly dispossessed. In all the former cases of this kind, which have come before this Court, the Slave Trade was liable to considerations very different from those which belong to it now. It had at that time been prohibited (as far as respected carrying Slaves to the colonies of foreign nations) by America, but by our own laws it was still allowed. It appeared to us, therefore, difficult to consider the prohibitory law of America in any other light than as one of those municipal regulations of a foreign state of which this Court could not take any cognizance. But by the alteration which has since taken place, the question stands on different gronnds, and is open to the application of very different principles. The Slave Trade has since been totally abolished by this country, and our legislature has pronounced it to be contrary to the principles of justice and

humanity. Whatever we might think as individuals before, we could not, sitting as Judges in a British Court of Justice, regard the trade in that light, while our own laws permitted it. But we can now assert that this trade cannot, abstractedly speaking, have a legitimate existence.

"When I say abstractedly speaking, I mean that this country has no right to controul any foreign legislature that may think fit to dissent from this doctrine, and to permit to its own subjects the prosecution of this trade; but we have now a right to affirm that *primâ facie* the trade is illegal, and thus to throw on claimants the burthen of proof that, in respect of them, by the authority of their own laws, it is otherwise. As the case now stands, we think we are entitled to say, that a claimant can have no right, upon principles of universal law, to claim the restitution, in a Prize Court, of human beings carried as his Slaves. He must shew some right that has been violated by the capture, some property of which he has been dispossessed, and to which he ought to be restored. In this case, the laws of the Claimant's country allow of no right of property such as he claims. There can, therefore, be no right to restitution. The consequence is, that the judgment must be affirmed."

The Directors have reason to believe that

this judgment was in perfect conformity with the opinion of the highest legal authorities in the United States.

The great importance of this decision may be inferred from this circumstance, that it was no sooner known, than every American flag which covered the Slave Trade disappeared.

The course which has since been pursued by the citizens of the United States embarking in this trade, has been, to call at some Spanish or Portugueze port; there to obtain fictitious bills of sale, and other papers, which might serve to disguise the real ownership.

This practice, however, to which, on the first view, the case of the Amedie did not seem to apply, and which it was apprehended might be carried to an extent almost indefinite, has happily received a decisive check by a judgment recently pronounced by Sir William Scott, in the High Court of Admiralty, in the case of a vessel called the Fortuna. For want of such a precedent as this case now happily furnishes, several vessels in precisely the same circumstances—namely, vessels destined for the Slave Trade, and clearly Americans, but under a Spanish disguise—had been liberated by the Vice-Admiralty Courts in different parts of the world.

The case in which this judgment has been given is as follows:

HIGH COURT OF ADMIRALTY.

CASE OF THE FORTUNA—VERISSIMO, MASTER.

This vessel sailed from New York, under American colours, in the month of July 1810, being then named the William and Mary, and arrived at Madeira in September. The ostensible owner at this time was an American citizen of the name of George Fowler Trenholm, who also acted as master. On arriving at Madeira, he landed a part of his cargo; and about a week before his departure from it, he executed a bill of sale for the ship to a native of Madeira, a Portuguese subject, named Joao de Souza; and in consequence of this sale obtained Portuguese papers and assumed a Portuguese flag. This Joao de Souza is stated to be a man notoriously of no property, who is employed as a clerk in the store of an English mercantile house in that island; and in point of fact, no consideration was given for the vessel. In thus lending his name to this transaction, Joao de Souza appears to have merely complied with the wishes of his employers, who were the consignees of the William and Mary. The William and Mary, having thus become colourably the property of a Portuguese, was re-named the Fortuna, and another Portuguese, of the name of Verissimo, was ap-

pointed master. George Fowler Trenholm, the former master, was now converted into a supercargo; and the whole conduct and entire controul of the ship and adventure were committed to him, without his even receiving any instructions whatever from the alleged owner, Joao de Souza. The only part of the cargo taken on board at Madeira consisted of some articles of provisions for the voyage.

On the 6th of October this vessel sailed from Madeira, and, when about seven or eight miles distant from the harbour of Funchall, was captured by his Majesty's ship Melampus, Captain Hawker, and sent to Plymouth.

The evidence obtained by means of the standing interrogatories afforded strong suspicion that the sale at Madeira was a fraudulent and collusive transaction; and this suspicion was afterwards fully confirmed: and it clearly appeared, from the mere inspection of the vessel, independently of other corroborating circumstances, that the object of the voyage was to procure a cargo of Slaves on the coast of Africa.

The judgment of the Court, delivered by the Right Hon. Sir William Scott, on the 12th of March 1811, was to the following effect.

"This ship, bearing the Portuguese flag, was taken and brought in as prize, and proceeded against as such by the captor. Depositions were taken; and it was not until a considera-

ble time afterwards, that a claim was given by the master for this ship as the property of a Portuguese owner. The captor in this case, as in other cases of prize proceedings, gave no special allegation. The act of bringing her in, and proceeding against her, alleges her generally to be a subject of prize rights, but the captor is not called upon to state, at the commencement of the suit, the particular grounds on which he contends that she is so. He has a right to institute the inquiry, and he takes the chance of the benefit of any fact that may be produced in the result of that inquiry. This is a great advantage on the side of the captor, but it is controuled by his liability to costs and damages if the inquiry produces nothing; and it is fully balanced by the advantage given to the claimant in this species of proceeding, that no evidence shall be admitted against him but such as proceeds from himself, from his own documents, and from his own witnesses; the captor not being permitted, except in cases marked by peculiar circumstances, to furnish any evidence whatever. In the present case it is not, I think, competent for the claimant to object that the captor had no right to institute an inquiry whether the ship was Portuguese or American. The captor instituted no such inquiry: he alleged her simply to be prize, and proceeded against

her generally as such. If in the course of this general inquiry it turns out that she is shewn to be clearly American, he has a complete right to avail himself of any benefit that may legally result from the capture of an American ship found in the circumstances that are attributed to this ship at the time of her capture. If she is liable to confiscation on any ground arising from those circumstances so discovered, he is not to be told that the discovery has been produced in a way of which he has no right to take the advantage.

"An American ship, *quasi* American, is entitled upon proof to immediate restitution; but she may forfeit, as other neutral ships may, that title, by various acts of misconduct—by violations of belligerent rights most clearly and universally. But though the prize law looks primarily to violations of belligerent rights as grounds of confiscation in vessels not actually belonging to the enemy, it has extended itself a good deal beyond considerations of that description only. It has been established by recent decisions of the supreme court, that the Court of Prize, though properly a court purely of the law of nations, has a right to notice the municipal law of this country in the case of a British vessel which, in the course of a prize proceeding, appears to have been trading in violation of

that law, and to reject a claim for her on that account. That principle has been incorporated into the prize law of this country within the last twenty years, and seems now fully incorporated. A late decision, in the case of the Amedie, seems to have gone the length of establishing a principle, that any trade contrary to the general law of nations, although not tending to or accompanied with any infraction of the belligerent rights of that country, whose tribunals are called upon to consider it, may subject the vessel employed in that trade to confiscation. The Amedie was an American ship employed in carrying on the Slave Trade; a trade which this country, since its own abandonment of it, has deemed repugnant to the law of nations, to justice and humanity, though without presuming so to consider and treat it, where it occurs in the practice of the subjects of a state which continues to tolerate and protect it by its own municipal regulations: but it puts upon the parties who are found in the occupations of that trade the burthen of shewing that it was so tolerated and protected; and on failure of producing such proof, proceeds to condemnation, as it did in the case of that vessel. How far that judgment has been universally concurred in and approved, is not for me to inquire. If there be those who disap-

American colours. Two or three papers, found in a state of concealment, give an inconsistent account of the ownership of the vessel whilst she remained in America: for one of them, which bears date 31st July, describes her as the joint property of Trenholm (the master), and John Ker, and David Shaw, in equal parts: another document, that bears date a month before, viz. 1st July, purports to be a conveyance of her, by two persons of the name of Ker, to Trenholm, as sole proprietor. Whatever the interests of the parties might be (whether sole or joint), they were clearly American interests at the time of the ship's sailing from America. The former of the two papers, just referred to, describes the voyage to be to the Island of Madeira, and from thence to the Havannah, and from thence to any place which might become a market: so that the cargo was not intended to be landed at Madeira, as in fact it was not. It authorises him likewise to dispose of the ship, either at Madeira or elsewhere. With a cargo well-assorted for the African market, she goes to Madeira, where, after delivery of a small part (if that fact can be established by the unconfirmed testimony of Trenholm), and after receiving on board articles of provision, she is transferred, not only herself but her cargo, to a Portuguese of the name of

meaning of those positions, which appear to contain it, is extremely misunderstood in this application of them: all that the Court has thrown out respecting the effect of the flag and pass is this, that the party who takes the benefit of them is himself bound by them: he is not at liberty, when they happen to turn to his disadvantage, to turn round and deny the character which he has worn for his own benefit, and upon the credit of his own oaths or solemn declarations;—but they do not bind other parties as against him; other parties are at liberty to shew that these are spurious credentials, assumed for the purpose of disguising the real character of the vessel; and it is no inconsiderable part of the ordinary occupation of this Court to pull off this mask, and exhibit the vessel so disguised in her true character of an enemy's vessel. Now, looking at the deposition and documents, I think that no doubt can be entertained that she is an American vessel, at present owned by Americans, and only colourably transferred to a Portuguese for purposes of deception. It is admitted throughout all the evidence, that she had been very recently, and upon her arrival at Madeira, the American ship William and Mary, owned by one or more Americans at New York, from which place she had sailed under

been practised upon the Portuguese government; for, in order to obtain the documents under which she is adopted into Portuguese navigation, it is essential to be shewn that the consideration-money should have been actually paid. Accordingly, in the document for naturalization of the vessel, it is stated, 'that the vender ceded to the vendee his possession and property in the said schooner, and *acknowledged the receipt of the sum of eight thousand dollars*, delivering to him, as and for a receipt for the said consideration-money, the instrument subjoined:' and that instrument expresses thus; 'It appearing, by the report of the Judge of the Customs, that the schooner measured two hundred and twenty tons, and was purchased for eight thousand dollars, *which purchase-money has been paid;* it is hereby adjudged, and the schooner is qualified, under the name of the Fortuna, &c. &c.' So the subsequent instrument recites, '*that the consideration-money had been paid;*' whereas no such money had either been paid or in any manner secured, though he must have certified it upon oath, or by some solemn declaration. Whatever, therefore, was obtained from the Portuguese government, was fraudulently obtained, and under false pretences of a transfer, which had never taken place, and which could not, with the aid of

Portuguese documents so obtained, entitle this vessel to any recognition of a Portuguese character. She continues still an American vessel.

"The second question then is, was this American vessel employed in that traffic which subjected the Amedie to a sentence of confiscation? I think that a variety of important circumstances lead irresistibly to that conclusion. Trenholm, the present supercargo (for he continues on board this vessel in this character, after the pretended sale of her in his character of master and owner) pretends, in an affidavit, that he was not to carry on the Slave Trade, but meant to dispose of the cargo at the Cape de Verde Islands, or the Brazils. But this man's conduct is too deeply involved in the entire fraud of these transactions to claim any credit for his representations. The construction and furniture of the ship had all the accommodations necessary for the conduct of that trade, and of that trade only. She had platforms ready constructed; she had timbers fit for the construction of more; she had iron shackles and bolts, and running chains and collars—all adapted for the purposes of conveying slaves—and the quantity and species of provision and medicine which such purposes require. It has been suggested in argument, that the ship had probably been employed before as a slave ship,

and that the fixed accommodations had been suffered to remain, though her employment was altered. But is this probable, that they would have been suffered to remain in a vessel destined for other occupations? In other trades they would have been obstructions and nuisances and the first thing done before she left America, would have been to remove them. The continuance of such accommodations proves the intended continuance in that trade, for they are not accommodations in any other. In the concealed papers it is disclosed that she was to go to the Havannah, the great mart for the importation of negroes. When I see these platforms constructed, and an apparatus for the construction of more; these irons collected together; the nature of the provisions on board; the fraudulent sale, and the fraudulent acquisition of the Portuguese character under it; the false pretences and unjust resistance to fair inquiry that has travelled with this case throughout; the particulars of which I do not detail, after the ample statements of both which have been given by the advocates for the captors; I can have no rational doubt of her real character, and under the authority of the case of the Amedie, I condemn her and her cargo."

The most important effects cannot fail to flow from this decision, when it comes to be known on the Coast of Africa. The intelli-

gence will be conveyed thither by a ship of war, which is expected to sail in a few days.

By means of the correspondence, which the Directors stated in their last Report to have been established with the Society for abolishing Slavery and the Slave Trade in the United States, they were enabled to bring before the view of the American Government, facts which proved that the Slave Trade was still most extensively carried on by its own subjects, in defiance of the prohibitory enactments of Congress. The President, in his message to Congress, at the opening of its session, in the month of November last, took occasion to recommend the subject to its attention, in terms which it is hoped may have led, ere this time, to some measures of more effectual prohibition. The President thus expressed himself.

" Among the commercial abuses still committed under the American flag (and leaving in force my former references to that subject), it appears that American citizens are instrumental in carrying on a traffic in enslaved Africans, equally in violation of the laws of humanity, and in defiance of those of their own country.

" The same just and benevolent motives which produced the interdiction in force against this criminal conduct, will doubtless be felt by

Congress, in devising *farther* means of suppressing the evil."

The Directors look with anxiety for the result of this recommendation.

Nor is it only the American Slave Trade which has been thus materially abridged since the last meeting of the Society. A treaty of alliance concluded with Portugal, and ratified on the 19th of February last, contains the following stipulation:

"His Royal Highness the Prince Regent of Portugal, being fully convinced of the injustice and impolicy of the Slave Trade, and of the great disadvantages which arise from the necessity of introducing and continually renewing a foreign and factitious population for the purpose of labour and industry within his South American dominions, has resolved to co-operate with his Britannic Majesty, in the cause of humanity and justice, by adopting the most efficacious means for bringing about a gradual Abolition of the Slave Trade throughout the whole of his dominions. And actuated by this principle, His Royal Highness the Prince Regent of Portugal engages that his subjects shall not be permitted to carry on the Slave Trade on any part of the Coast of Africa, not actually belonging to His Royal Highness's dominions, in which that trade has been discontinued and abandoned by the

powers and states of Europe, which formerly traded there; reserving, however, to his own subjects the right of purchasing and trading in slaves within the African dominions of the crown of Portugal. It is, however, to be distinctly understood, that the stipulations of the present article are not to be considered as invalidating or otherwise affecting the rights of the Crown of Portugal to the territories of Cabenda and Molembo (which rights have formerly been questioned by the government of France), nor as limiting or restraining the commerce of Ajuda and other ports of Africa (situated upon the coast commonly called in the Portugueze language the *Costa de Mina*), belonging to or claimed by the Crown of Portugal; His Royal Highness the Prince Regent of Portugal being resolved not to resign nor forego his just and legitimate pretensions thereto, nor the rights of his subjects to trade with those places, exactly in the same manner as they have hitherto done."

Certain ambiguities of expression contained in this article of the Treaty, had led the Directors to fear that it would be in the power of the slave trader to elude the obvious intention of the contracting parties. They have, however received the most satisfactory assurances on the subject, from His Majesty's government. The real purpose of the stipulation is fully un-

derstood to be, to confine the Portugueze Slave Trade strictly to their own settlements on the African coast; and any doubt on this point to which the terms of the stipulation may have given birth, will in all probability be speedily removed by an explanatory article.

It is unquestionably a great step gained to have thus restrained slave ships, under Portugueze colours, from spreading themselves as heretofore over the whole range of the African coast. They are now debarred from trading for slaves at any point north of the Equator, with the exception only of the small island of Bissao, situated at the mouth of the Rio Grande, between the 11th and 12th degrees of north latitude. The cession of this insignificant island (insignificant in every view, but in relation to the Slave Trade), or its express exclusion from that liberty of trading in slaves, which is reserved to the Portugueze settlements generally, would effectually liberate an extent of between two and three thousand miles of coast from the visits of Portugueze slave traders.

With respect to the Slave Trade which is carried on under the Spanish flag, it is certain that a very inconsiderable proportion (if indeed any part of it) is really on account of subjects of that nation. Of the many vessels bearing that flag, which have been detained for examination dur-

ing the last year, there is strong reason to believe, that all were either American or British property, ostensibly transferred to Spanish subjects, for the mere purpose of concealing the real ownership. In some of these cases the disguise has been detected, and condemnation has followed: and it is no unsatisfactory evidence of the justice of the decisions, that no appeals have hitherto been made to the superior tribunals in this country, from the sentences of the Vice-Admiralty Courts which condemned them.

The following facts, which have come within the immediate observation of the Directors, will serve to illustrate the view which they have taken of this subject.

Two ships under Spanish colours, the Gallicia and Palafox, were met by his Majesty's frigate the Amelia, commanded by the Hon. Captain Irby, on their voyage from a port in Spanish America, to the coast of Africa, for slaves. Captain Irby, seeing reason to suspect that the adventure was really on British account, detained the vessels, and brought them into Plymouth. There, on the usual preparatory examinations having been instituted, the master, mate, and supercargo all swore so positively and unequivocally, that the ships and their cargoes were Spanish property,

that the Judge of the Admiralty felt himself obliged, notwithstanding some very suspicious circumstances, to decree their liberation, on bail being given to abide the result of the farther proof which was ordered.

The supercargo, in particular, who called himself Don Jorge Madre Silva, swore that he was a native Spaniard, and not a subject of Great Britain.

It was discovered, however, by means of two of the crew, that all these depositions, thus solemnly and judicially made, were false. One of the ships was ascertained to have cleared out from England, by the name of the Queen Charlotte, and to be still the property of British merchants resident in London. The other had cleared out from Kingston in Jamaica, under the name of the Mohawk. Both vessels had undergone a fictitious sale at Carthagena to a Spaniard, and had there changed their original names for the Gallicia and Palafox: and the supercargo who had sworn to his Spanish birth, proved to be an Englishman who had sailed from the river Thames in the Queen Charlotte, and was then known by the name of George Woodbine, which, when translated into Spanish, formed the appellation by which he was afterwards distinguished, Don Jorge Madre Silva.

When these facts came to the knowledge of the Directors, they applied to his Majesty's government, to prevent the liberation of the vessels, even if unobjectionable bail should be offered, as the whole complexion of the transaction was now most materially altered. His Majesty's government immediately ordered the vessels to be detained; on which the claimants, aware of the risk they should incur by abiding the result of a trial, abandoned the prosecution of their claim, and the property has since been condemned.

It cannot be either the interest or the policy of the Spanish government to protect such nefarious transactions as these; and the Directors are persuaded that this case furnishes a fair sample of those slave-trading adventures which pretend to be Spanish. They are disposed to hope, therefore, that the *Cortes* may be induced to adopt some arrangement, which will tend effectually to their suppression; and their attention will, doubtless, be particularly directed to the subject by the representations of the British government.

What may be the general feeling in Spain and Spanish America, on this subject, the Directors have had no means of accurately ascertaining.

In the Caraccas, a province in which there

are more slave owners than in any other Spanish colony, Cuba excepted, one of the first acts of the Junta, which has recently assumed the provincial government, has been to prohibit the African Slave Trade. Considering the supposed prejudices of the American colonists generally, and the interests which they conceive to be involved in the Slave Trade, the Directors are disposed to view this proceeding as indicating a much more favourable spirit, in regard to this subject, than they could have conceived to exist in these colonies. The province of the Caraccas, it must be owned, from the peculiar state of its present relations to the mother country, does not afford a decisive test of the general disposition of the inhabitants of Spanish America. But the example of any proscription of the Slave Trade in the American colonies of Spain, however partial, and from whatever motives arising, cannot but be beneficial, in proportion, at least, as it removes the obstacles which might have arisen, in the minds of the Spanish government, to the stirring at all of a subject, upon which it had been hitherto imagined that the colonists would not bear any interference.

After the length to which the Report has already run, the Directors are unwilling to enter into minute details, with regard to the

means which have been practised in the West Indies, to elude the laws prohibiting the importation of slaves. Suffice it to say, that they have received information which satisfies them that those laws have been grossly, and, in some instances, openly, violated by the importation of slaves, to a considerable extent, into our own West Indian colonies. It is to be hoped, however, that the offenders in these instances will be brought to justice, his Majesty's Government having signified their determination to give the most pointed instructions to their Colonial Governors, and Custom-house Officers, to enforce, in the strictest manner, the due execution of the laws for the Abolition of the Slave Trade.

The Directors have also been led to make representations to his Majesty's government, respecting a case of barbarity of the most flagitious description, which has lately taken place in the island of Nevis. His Majesty's ministers have felt, on the occasion, all the indignation which the transaction is calculated to excite, and are desirous to do all in their power both to punish the crime, and to prevent its recurrence. The details, which are given in the Appendix, will serve to exemplify the nature of the bondage into which it is the object of the Institution to prevent

the natives of Africa from being any longer reduced*.

This point will be further illustrated by the case of John Wise, inserted in the Appendix †.

In the island of Trinidada, something has been done to meliorate the condition of the slaves, merely by adhering to the wholesome provisions of the Spanish Slave Code, which forms, according to the articles of capitulation, the law of the island, but which had entirely fallen into disuse, since the colony came into our possession. The beneficial nature of this code may be inferred from the following brief sketch of its principal regulations.

It secures to slaves the right to redeem themselves, at a fair price, and gives the judge a power to deprive an inhuman master of all his slaves. It gives a right to the slave to have a weekly portion of his time for his own benefit, and very materially restrains the master's power of punishment. It gives freedom to every female slave who has cohabited with her master; and in failure of lawful children, the illegitimate offspring, of whatever colour, may, after any act of acknowledgment by the father,

* See Appendix U. † See Appendix V.

inherit his property, and succeed to the mother's without any such act *.

The information which has been obtained from the Coast of Africa, during the last year, has principally related to the state of the Slave Trade, and the means pursued for repressing it. In this service, Captain Columbine, the governor of Sierra Leone, and Colonel Maxwell, the governor of Senegal, have been particularly active. The great revival of the Slave Trade, which has taken place, is represented on all hands as having given a severe check to the favourable appearances of improvement which were discernible among the natives on the coast, about two years ago. If, however, the measures adopted for the suppression of the trade should have their proper effect, the Directors trust that the ground which has been lost will speedily be regained †.

The vast extent of the African coast certainly affords great facilities for the contraband Slave Trade. Many of the vessels destined for this object appear there, in the first instance, as traders in the natural productions of the country; and they perhaps receive no slaves on board, until they are about to depart on their ulterior voyage. Without a large naval force,

* See Appendix W. † See Appendix X.

therefore, it would be difficult, completely to prevent such transactions along a range of coast, which extends three thousand five hundred miles, without taking into account the rivers and creeks which occur in that space Five or six active cruizers would, however, render the attempts to trade in slaves so hazardous, as at least considerably to diminish them Representations have been made to government on the subject, which the Directors hope will lead to some increase of the naval force on the coast of Africa*.

It is also intended, as a farther check on the contraband Slave Trade, to convey to the Governors of British settlements on the coast of Africa, the same power of making seizures under the acts abolishing that trade, which are enjoyed by officers of the navy and of the revenue. This measure will probably be carried into effect without much delay: and as the persons so appointed will be stationary on the Coast, it is to be expected that they will materially contribute to repress the practices which have of late so much prevailed†.

* A frigate and a sloop of war have been added to the naval force on the African station, since this report was made.

† A clause has been introduced into the Act inserted in Appendix, T, which conveys to African Governors the powers in question.

At Sierra Leone, the number of children who are enjoying the benefits of education are stated to be between two and three hundred. A most liberal offer has lately been made to the Directors by the institution for promoting the British System of Education. The Committee of which Institution has undertaken to provide with board and lodging, free of expense, at the Royal Free School in the Borough of Southwark, two African youths to be selected by the Directors; Mr. Joseph Lancaster having agreed to superintend their instruction, and to qualify them for schoolmasters.

The Directors have accepted this offer, and have taken the necessary measures for carrying the plan into execution.

Many of the seeds which were sent to Africa by the Institution, have succeeded, and the plants produced from them are in a flourishing state. This is particularly the case with the Sunn, or Hemp of Bengal, which seems to thrive as well at Sierra Leone, as in its native soil. A farther supply of seeds, and some valuable plants, received from Dr. Roxburgh of Calcutta since the last meeting, have been forwarded to Africa*. The unwearied attention of

* See Appendix Y.

Dr. Roxburgh to the interests of the Institution, deserves, and has received, the warmest acknowledgments of the Directors.

The members of the Institution will recollect that Commissioners were appointed by Government to institute an inquiry into the state of the settlements on the African Coast, and to report in what way they could be made subservient to the civilization and improvement of Africa. The Commission would have closed its inquiries, as the Directors understand, in the month of January last; their report, therefore, may be shortly expected to arrive in this country.

The Directors have been assiduous in their endeavours to excite the attention of Naval Officers to the subject of the Slave Trade, and to furnish them with such clear information upon it as might serve to regulate their proceedings; and in these endeavours they have been most ably and zealously seconded by the Honourable Commissioner Grey at Portsmouth.

The abstract of the Acts abolishing the Slave Trade, and of the Orders in Council founded on them, contained in the Appendix to the last Report; the Judgment pronounced by Sir William Grant, in the case of the Amedie; that of Sir William Scott, in the case of the Fortuna; the article of the Portugueze Treaty, which

confines the Slave Trade within fixed limits; and a paper, pointing out the circumstances which establish satisfactorily an intention to deal in slaves, have been separately printed, and widely circulated in the Navy*. The whole of these, the Directors are happy to add, have been adopted by the Lords of the Admiralty, and transmitted under their orders to all the naval stations. In consequence, it may be presumed, of these measures, four slave ships have been brought into ports in the Channel for adjudication; three of which have been already condemned. The fourth is not yet brought to trial. The number which have been condemned in the Vice-Admiralty Courts abroad, during the last six or eight months of the year 1810, cannot be accurately ascertained, as regular returns of the condemnations have not yet been received in this country. The Directors, however, are disposed from the information which has reached them, to estimate it at about from thirty to forty vessels. In many of these cases, the owners are undoubtedly British; and the Directors will not fail to avail themselves of all the means which the law affords for prosecuting their offence.

When the various measures which have been

* See Appendix Z.

adopted during the last year are brought into full operation, the Directors flatter themselves that a very considerable diminution of the existing Slave Trade will be effected: and that they will thus find themselves more at liberty to direct their efforts, and the funds with which they are entrusted, to objects of ulterior improvement.

It now only remains, that the Directors lay before the meeting the state of the funds of the Institution, as certified by the auditors. It is as follows, viz.

STATEMENT *of the* FUNDS *of the* AFRICAN INSTITUTION, *on* 31st *of* DECEMBER, 1810.

DR

To Cash on hand on the 31st December, 1809 - - -	L.	494	13 3
To Amount of Donations and Subscriptions received during the Year - - - - - - - - - - - -		1651	18 2
To Interest on Exchequer Bills - - - - - - - - -		158	3 2
	L.	2304	14 7
To Balance - - - - - -	L.	436	9 10
To Exchequer Bills on Hand -		4500	0 0
Total Amount of Property on Hand, on the 31st of December, 1810.	L.	4936	9 10

CR

By Cash paid for Exchequer Bills, 31st March	L.	505	6 11
31st May		503	2 8
28th Dec.		506	7 5
		1514	17 0
By Cash paid for printing 2d Report; for printing and circulating 4th Report, Abstracts of Acts of Parliament and sundry other Papers; printing Summonses; hire of Rooms; Freight to Africa; Paper, Stationary, &c.&c.		222	18 6
By Cash paid Collector, for collecting Subscriptions, and for other Services - - - - - - - - - - - -		54	12 9
By Cash paid for Postages, Porterages, advertising Public Meetings, &c. &c. - - - - - - - - - - - -		25	16 6
By Cash paid Clerk for Services - - - - - - - - -		50	0 0
By Cash on Hand - - - - - - - - - - - - - -		436	9 10
	L.	2304	14 7

Examined, 9th March, 1811.

RICHARD STAINFORTH,
W. S. HATHAWAY,
ROBERT MARSDEN.

APPENDIX.

T.

An Act for rendering more effectual an Act made in the forty-seventh Year of his Majesty's Reign, intituled, "An Act for the Abolition of the Slave Trade." May 14, 1811.

WHEREAS the two Houses of Parliament did, by their resolutions of the tenth and twenty-fourth days of June one thousand eight hundred and six, severally resolve, that the African Slave Trade being contrary to the principles of justice, humanity, and sound policy, they would, with all practicable expedition, take effectual measures for the Abolition of the same: and whereas, in conformity with the said resolutions, and for all and each of the reasons therein stated, the said trade was, by an act passed in the forty-seventh year of his present Majesty, declared to be unlawful: and whereas it hath been found that divers persons, not deterred by the provisions and penalties of the said act, do still continue to deal and trade in Slaves upon the coast of Africa, and elsewhere, and to carry them for sale by sea: and whereas the Commons House of Parliament, by its resolution of the fifteenth of June, one thousand eight hundred and ten, did express its indignation at such practices, and did resolve speedily to take into consideration such measures as might tend effectually to prevent such daring violations of the law: and

whereas it is fit that such measures should be extended also to the effectual Abolition of the Slave Trade whereso-ever it may be attempted to practise it; be it therefore enacted by the King's most excellent Majesty, by and with the advice and consent of the Lords spiritual and temporal, and Commons, in this present Parliament as-

Subjects or persons residing in the United Kingdom, or any of the dominions belonging to his Majesty, carrying on the Slave Trade, or any way engaged therein, shall be declared Felons.

sembled, and by the authority of the same, that if any subject or subjects of his Majesty, or if any person or persons residing or being within this United Kingdom, or in any of the islands, colonies, dominions, forts, settlements, factories, or territories now or hereafter belonging thereto, or being in his Majesty's occupation or possession, or under the government of the united company of merchants trading to the East Indies, shall, from and after the first day of June next, by him or themselves, or by his or their factors or agents, or otherwise howsoever, carry away or remove, or aid or assist in the carrying away or removing, as a slave or slaves, or for the purpose of being sold, transferred, used, or dealt with as a slave or slaves, any person or persons whatsoever, from any part of Africa, or from any other country, territory, or place whatsoever, either immediately, or by transhipment at sea or otherwise, directly or indirectly; or shall import or bring, or aid or assist in the importing or bringing, into any island, colony, country, territory, or place whatsoever, any such person or persons as aforesaid, for the purpose aforesaid; or shall knowingly and wilfully ship, embark, receive, detain, or confine on board any ship, vessel, or boat, any such person or persons as aforesaid, for the purpose of his, her, or their being so carried away or removed, imported or brought as aforesaid, or of being sold, transferred, used, or dealt with as a slave or slaves; or shall knowingly and wilfully use or employ, or permit to be used or employed, or let or take to freight or on hire any ship or vessel to be used or employed in carrying away or removing, importing or bringing, or for the purpose of carrying away or removing, importing or bringing

as aforesaid, any such person or persons, as a slave or slaves, or for the purpose of his, her, or their being sold, transferred, used, or dealt with as a slave or slaves; or shall fit out or cause to be fitted out, or shall take the charge or command of, or navigate, or enter and embark on board, any such ship or vessel, as master or captain mate, supercargo, or surgeon, knowing that such ship or vessel is actually employed, or is, in the same voyage for which he or they shall so enter and embark on board, intended to be employed in carrying or removing, importing or bringing as aforesaid any such person or persons, as, or for the purpose of his, her, or their being sold, transferred, used, or dealt with as, a slave or slaves; then and in every such case, the person or persons so offending and their counsellors, aiders, and abettors, shall be and are hereby declared to be felons, and shall be transported beyond seas for a term not exceeding fourteen years, or shall be confined and kept to hard labour for a term not exceeding five years, nor less than three years, at the discretion of the court, before whom such offender or offenders shall be tried and convicted.

Punishment of persons serving on board any ship, or underwriting any policy thereon.

II. Provided always, and be it further enacted by the authority aforesaid, that if any person or persons shall, from and after the first day of May next, enter or navigate or embark on board any such ship or vessel used and employed, or meant and intended to be used and employed as aforesaid, as a petty officer, servant or seaman, or petty officers, servants, or seamen, knowing that such is or shall be the purpose, or one of the purposes, of the voyage, or if any person or persons shall underwrite, or procure to be underwritten, any policy of assurance upon any ship or vessel, or goods, or the freight of any ship or vessel, employed or intended to be employed in any such voyage, knowing that such is or shall be the purpose, or one of the purposes, of the said voyage, he or they, nevertheless shall not be deemed guilty of a felony within the meaning of this Act, but shall be, and they are hereby declared to

be guilty of a misdemeanor only, and shall be punished by imprisonment for a term not exceeding two years.

Persons not to be deemed accessaries.

III. And it is hereby further enacted and declared, that such persons shall not be deemed to be, nor shall be punished as, accessaries to felony; any thing in this present Act to the contrary thereof notwithstanding.

Act not to prevent the removing of slaves from one British settlement to another, &c.

IV. Provided always, and be it further enacted by the authority aforesaid, that nothing in this Act contained shall extend, or be construed to extend, to subject any person or persons to the pains and penalties hereby imposed for exporting, removing, or carrying from any present or future British island, colony, or settlement in the West Indies, to any other present or future British island, colony or settlement in the West Indies, or from one part of such British island, colony or settlement in the West Indies, to any other part of the same island, colony or settlement, or for importing or transporting into or landing in any such island, colony or settlement, any slave or slaves, which have been or shall be born within such islands, colonies or settlements, or any slave or slaves which shall have been or may be lawfully imported or brought into the said islands, colonies or settlements, or for removing or carrying any slave or slaves from one part of any foreign island, colony or settlement, to another part of the same foreign island, colony or settlement, or for transhipping and assisting at sea any slave or slaves, which shall be in any ship or vessel in distress; provided also that nothing in this Act contained shall extend to prevent the transportation to any foreign colony or place, of any slave or slaves that shall have been convicted by due course of law in any present or future British island or colony, of any crime to which the punishment of transportation is or shall be annexed by the law of such island or colony; but in every such case a copy of the judgment or sentence, certified by the Court before which the offender was convicted, shall be put on board in the ship or vessel in which any such convict shall be transported.

Nor prevent the transportation to foreign places of slaves that have been convicted of crimes.

V. Provided also, and be it further enacted, that nothing herein-before contained shall extend, or be construed to extend, to subject any person or persons to the pains and penalties hereby imposed for any thing done or to be done in Africa, west of the Cape of Good Hope, or in the West Indies, or America to the east of Cape Horn, on or before the first day of September next; nor for any thing done, or to be done in the East Indies, the island of Madagascar, the ports and places of Africa to the east of the Cape of Good Hope, the islands of Mauritius and Bourbon, and the islands in the East Indian Seas, on or before the first day of January next; nor for any thing to be done in New Holland, the islands in the , or the Coast of America to the west of Cape , or before the first day of May, in the year one thousand eight hundred and twelve; nor for any thing done or to be done in the high seas, on board of any ship or vessel which hath or shall have sailed last from any port in Great Britain or Ireland on or before the first day of June next, or from any other port or place in Europe on or before the first day of July next; or from any port or place in Africa west of the Cape of Good Hope, or the West Indies, or America to the east of Cape Horn, on or before the first day of August next; or from any port or place in the East Indies, Madagascar, the islands of Mauritius and Bourbon, the coast of Africa to the east of the Cape of Good Hope, and the islands in the East Indian Seas, on or before the first day of January next; or from any port or place in New Holland, the islands in the South Seas, or the coast of America to the west of Cape Horn, on or before the first day of May in the year one thousand eight hundred and twelve.

Act not to extend to certain things done before certain periods.

VI. And be it further enacted and declared, that all offences herein-before declared to be felonies or misdemeanors, which shall be committed in Africa, or in any country, territory or place, other than this United Kingdom, or on the high seas, or in any port, sea, creek or

Offences to be tried according to the ordinary course of law.

place, where the Admiral has jurisdiction, shall and may be enquired of either according to the ordinary course of law, and the provisions of an Act passed in the twenty-eighth year of the reign of King Henry the Eighth, intituled, "An Act for Pirates," or according to the provisions of an Act passed in the thirty-third year of the reign of King Henry the Eighth, intituled, "An Act to proceed, by Commission of Oyer and Terminer, against such Persons as shall confess Treason and Felony, without remanding the same to be tried in the Shire where the Offence was committed," so far as the same Act is now unrepealed; or according to the provisions of an Act passed in the eleventh and twelfth years of the reign of his late Majesty King William the Third, intituled, "An Act passed for the more effectual Suppression of Piracy."

Act not to repeal former acts in respect of forfeitures.

VII. Provided always, and it is hereby further enacted and declared, that nothing herein contained shall be construed to repeal, annul, or alter the said Act of the forty-seventh year of his present Majesty, or an Act made in the forty-sixth year of his present Majesty, for preventing the importation of Slaves by any of his Majesty's subjects into any islands, colonies, plantations, or territories belonging to any foreign state or power, in respect of any forfeitures of ships or vessels, cargoes, goods, or effects, thereby respectively imposed for any offence against the said Acts, or either of them, or the remedies thereby given for the recovery thereof, or in respect of any pecuniary penalties thereby imposed; but that the said Acts shall, in all other respects, be deemed and taken to be in full force, except so far as the said Act of the forty-sixth year of his present Majesty is altered, or extended by the said Act of the forty-seventh year of his said Majesty.

Governors and commanders in chief, and persons authorized by them, may

VIII. And whereas it is in and by the said Acts respectively enacted, that all ships and vessels, slaves, or natives of Africa, carried, conveyed, or dealt with as slaves, and all other goods and effects that shall or may become forfeited for any offence committed against the said Acts

respectively, shall and may be seized by any officer of his Majesty's Customs or Excise, or by the commanders or officers of any of his Majesty's ships or vessels of war: and whereas ships and vessels, slaves, goods, and effects, liable to seizure and forfeiture under the said Acts, for offences committed on the coast of Africa, may be safely navigated, carried or kept, upon or near to the said coast, or in the ports, havens or rivers thereof, in contempt of the said acts, by reason of the want of officers of the Customs or Excise, or of his Majesty's ships or vessels of war stationed on the said coast, or on such parts thereof as may be visited by such offenders; be it therefore further enacted by the authority aforesaid, that it shall and may be lawful for all governors, or persons having the chief command, civil or military, of any of the colonies, settlements, forts or factories, belonging to his Majesty, or to the African Company in Africa, or any African island, and for all persons deputed and authorized by any such governor or commander in chief, to seize and prosecute all ships and vessels, slaves, or natives of Africa, carried, conveyed, or dealt with as slaves, and all goods and effects whatsoever that shall or may become forfeited for any offence committed against the said Acts of Parliament, or either of them, and which shall be found upon or near to the said coast, or in any port, haven, or river thereof, or within the limits of any of the said colonies, settlements, forts or factories, which governor or commander in chief, and all persons by them so deputed and authorized, shall, in making and prosecuting any such seizures, have the benefit of all the provisions made by the said Acts of Parliament, or by an Act of the fourth year of his present Majesty therein recited, or by any other Act of Parliament for the protection of officers seizing and prosecuting for any offence against the said last mentioned Act, or any other Act of Parliament relating to the trade and revenues of the British colonies or plantations in America.

Seize vessels and other forfeitures.

IX. Provided also, and be it further enacted by the

Persons sail-

Persons sailing in vessels giving information of offences committed not to be liable to punishment.

authority aforesaid, that if any person or persons, sailing or being in the capacity of a petty officer, or petty officer's servant or servants, seaman or seamen, on board of any ship or vessel fitted out for or engaged in the unlawfully carrying, removing, trading, or dealing in slaves, shall, within three months after the arrival of the said vessel at any port belonging to his Majesty, give information on oath, before any competent magistrate, against any owner or part owner, or any captain, mate, surgeon, or supercargo of such ship or vessel, who shall have committed any offence against this Act, and shall give evidence on oath against such owner or part owner, captain, mate, surgeon, and supercargo, before any magistrate or court before whom such offender may be tried; or if such person or persons so sailing as aforesaid, in the capacity of a petty officer or petty officers, mariner or mariners, servant or servants, shall, within three months after his or their arrival at any port or place not within his Majesty's dominions, give information to any of his Majesty's ambassadors, ministers plenipotentiary, envoys, chargés d'affaires, consuls, residents, or other agents, so that any person or persons owning such ship or vessel, or navigating or taking charge of the same, as captain, mate, surgeon or supercargo, may be apprehended, such person or persons so giving such information and evidence, shall not be liable to any of the pains or penalties of this Act, or any fine or other punishment under the said Acts of the forty-sixth and forty-seventh years of his present Majesty, or either of them, but shall be wholly discharged therefrom; and his Majesty's ambassadors, ministers plenipotentiary, envoys, chargés d'affaires, consuls, residents or other agents, are hereby required to receive any such information as aforesaid, and to transmit the particulars thereof, without delay, to one of his Majesty's principal secretaries of state, and to transmit copies of the same to the commanders of his Majesty's ships or vessels then being in the said port or place.

U.

Case of The King v. *Edward Huggins, sen. Esq.*

THE defendant, Edward Huggins, sen. Esq. is an eminent planter in the island of Nevis; has been peculiarly successful of late years, while other planters have in general had very opposite fortune; and has in consequence been extending his possessions progressively, by new purchases of estates and slaves: so that at present he is said to own above six hundred negroes.

Unfortunately, he is an instance of the frequent, though short-lived, success that attends a rigid exaction from the slaves, by means of severe discipline, of more than ordinary labour. Among other abuses, of which, during the Abolition controversy, the existence was denied in Parliament, this gentleman has practised that of compelling his unfortunate slaves to perform night-work in the field when the moonlight makes it practicable; and the kind of labour in which on those occasions they are employed, is that of carrying out dung from the home stall to the fields, in wicker baskets, on their heads.—(See a description of this work in the Parliamentary Evidence on the Slave Trade; especially that of Sir Ashton Byam, attorney-general of Grenada, a witness called on the part of the anti-abolitionists.)

Night-work (except in crop time, for the purpose of more speedily cutting and grinding the canes) is prohibited by a recent law of the islands composing the Leeward Island government. A General Council and Assembly of those islands were convened at St. Kitt's in 1798, in consequence of the earnest applications of his Majesty's Government (pursuant to a Parliamentary Address) to the colonial governors and legislatures to obtain laws for the protection of slaves, and

the melioration of their state; and an Act was passed for those purposes, by the tenth section of which it is enacted, that the slaves shall not be turned out to work before five o'clock in the morning, nor after seven in the evening, except in crop time, or from some evident necessity, under the penalty of five pounds.

Whether Mr. Huggins's slaves had heard of this law, or whether the repugnance of injured nature to his oppressions produced involuntary opposition, is not known; but so it was that some desertions, or some appearances of insubordination, were asserted to have been produced by the illegal exaction of night-work in carrying out dung. No insurrection, nor any forcible resistance of the master's authority, was proved, or even pretended, on the part of Mr. Huggins; and had such crimes been committed, the civil magistrate in the West Indies is always ready enough to punish them; nor is the bringing slaves to judicial punishment attended with any trouble, expense, or delay. Mr. Huggins had therefore no excuse for taking the law into his own hands, if the offence had been of a public kind. But it is understood to have amounted to no more than the private fault of non-obedience to the master or his agents, or, at most, to desertion from the estate.

This gentleman, however, was resolved on a vengeance, not only extra-judicial, but such as no magistrate, even in cases of the most heinous public offences, is empowered by law to inflict.

Here it is necessary to say something of the mode of corporeal punishment to which Mr. Huggins had resort, and its limitation by the colonial law.

The ordinary punishment of slaves, is a whipping with the cart whip, or, as it is called in Jamaica, the cattle whip, because it is the same which the drivers of carts or waggons in the West Indies apply to their mules or other cattle when working in a team. The same instrument coerces the labour of slaves in the field; but when applied as a punishment for past faults, and in a solemn way, its inflictions are

much more severe. The slave, instead of receiving a lash or two horizontally or obliquely, over his jacket, shirt, or trowsers (which, nevertheless, is sufficiently painful), is laid down on the ground, his arms and legs being extended, and generally held down, and his body laid bare from the back downwards. The lash is then applied vertically, by the driver or executioner, who stands at the proper distance to make the sufferer feel the full power of his torturing instrument. The report of the lash is louder than that of the long whalebone whips of our London carmen; and its effect so severe (except when the drivers are humanely forbid *to cut*, as the phrase is), that blood is drawn, and the skin stripped off, by every lash; till at length, if they are numerous, the poor victim's flesh, from the small of the back or hips down to the middle of the thigh, is not only excoriated, but cruelly mangled and torn. Such deep incisions are often made, that the parts, after they are healed, retain a shocking appearance during the rest of life.

From this account of the punishment, it will not seem strange that the number of lashes has been limited, by general practice as well as law, to a number less than forty. In most of the penal slave laws of the colonies, there is no medium in the scale of punishments, when inflicted by judgment of law, between thirty-nine lashes of the cart whip, and mutilation, banishment, or death; and ten or twelve lashes are in general held an adequate punishment for common domestic offences—at least by merciful masters. The meliorating acts, as they are called, for the protection of slaves, have in this respect attempted, or affected, to controul the master's authority; and the Act of the Leeward Islands already referred to, in the fourteenth section, has enacted, That if any person shall "cruelly whip" his slave, he shall be liable to an indictment in the superior court of criminal jurisdiction of the island, and, on conviction, shall be punished by fine or imprisonment, or both, at the discretion of the court. The slave, so cruelly whipped, is also, if it be thought necessary for his protection, to be sold to another master.

After these explanations, the nature of Mr. Huggins's conduct will be better understood.

Not content with gratifying his vengeance by punishment within the bounds of his plantation, where he might have laughed at public justice, by suffering none but slaves to witness his oppressions; he was resolved to shew his contempt of the law, and of the feelings of his more humane fellow colonists, by making the public market-place of Charlestown, which is the seat of the insular courts and government, the theatre of a dreadful execution upon his unfortunate slaves.

Accordingly, on the 23d of January 1810, he went, attended by two of his sons, on horseback, with upwards of twenty of his devoted victims, men and women, in custody of the drivers, through the streets of Charlestown, to the market-place; and there proceeded to indulge his cruelty to the utmost, during more than two hours, in the face of day, and in the sight and hearing, not only of free persons, but magistrates, who offered him no interruption.

To one negro-man he gave, by the hands of expert drivers, no less than three hundred and sixty-five lashes; to another, one hundred and fifteen; to a third, one hundred and sixty-five; to a fourth, two hundred and fifty-two; to a fifth, two hundred and twelve; to a sixth, one hundred and eighty-one; to a seventh, one hundred and eighty-seven. To a woman, one hundred and ten; to another, fifty-eight; to a third woman, ninety-seven; to a fourth, two hundred and twelve; to a fifth, two hundred and ninety-one; to a sixth, eighty-three; to another, eighty-nine; and to various other women and men, various other cruel measures of the same punishment.

The poor sufferers were, of course, dreadfully cut and mangled, but they were conveyed to the plantation of their savage master, and attended by his surgeon, who at his request had been present at the execution, and who, though a justice of peace, had not interfered as such to prevent or forbid the crime. By his evidence at the trial which after-

wards took place, it would appear that none of them died, though he admitted that many of them had suffered severely from fevers, the effects of their punishment. But, by a subsequent account from the island, it appears, that one of the women who was the most severely whipped has died since the trial, or has since been discovered to be dead. —Either this, or some other female sufferer, cried out during the whipping, that she was with child, but was disregarded, and her punishment went on. Among the circumstances of cruelty which have been mentioned, one of the drivers was brother to one of the men whom he was compelled to lacerate in the presence of the unfeeling master.

At the time of this outrage on humanity, public decency, and law, no less than seven magistrates were in Charlestown. Two of them, the Rev. William Green, who holds two livings in the island, and is a justice of the peace, and the Rev. Samuel Lyons who also holds two livings there, and is a member of the council, were within hearing of the lash, and must have known of the cruel and illegal cause, yet did not at all interpose. The same has been already remarked of the surgeon, Dr. Cassin. He admitted, at one of the trials which took place, that he was sent for by Mr. Huggins to attend in his professional character, and that, having counted two hundred and thirty-six lashes given to one of the negroes, he said he thought it was enough; but Mr. Huggins replied, he did not want his advice, unless he thought the man could bear no more, on which he, the witness, retired. Another justice of the peace, Mr. Edward Huggins, jun. was seen looking on at the execution the greatest part of the time.

But though some of the magistracy of the island were thus negligent of their duty, and appeared to regard the meliorating act, as all such acts, it is to be feared, are regarded in every island which has passed them, viz. as laws never meant to be obeyed, the House of Assembly at Nevis, to its honour, considered this transaction as one that they were bound in humanity, and from regard to the credit of the

colony, publicy to reprobate, and to make the subject of legal investigation. On the 31st of January 1810, eight days after the fact, they came to a resolution to that effect, which they ordered to be printed, and to be transmitted to England, and circulated throughout all the islands, together with the evidence laid before them as to the facts of the case.

The council concurred in this resolution, except as to the printing and publishing the minutes; but they had been published, previously to this opinion of the council, in the Gazette of St. Christopher, by order of the House of Assembly.

It should here be observed, that as there is no newspaper at Nevis, the Gazette of St. Christopher is the common organ of all official publications by the government of Nevis.

Perhaps, to publish the evidence at all in that stage of the proceeding was premature; but the Assembly seems to have thought that the audacious publicity and notoriety of the act demanded from them a public reprobation of it, lest it should redound to their own disgrace, and be a subject of scandal in Europe. Whatever credit, however, the resolution may reflect on the individuals who passed it, the event has too well proved that the society in general does not deserve to share in it.

An indictment was preferred, and found against Mr. Huggins, on the Act of the Leeward islands before referred to; and early in May, 1810, it came on to be tried in the Court of King's Bench and Common Pleas at Nevis, when the facts, as here stated, were fully proved; and indeed not disputed on the part of the defendant. He contented himself with attempting to prove that the slaves had been disorderly; but nothing like forcible resistance to the master's authority, or even mutinous or disrespectful language to him, or to any white person, was proved against them by any of his witnesses. The whole offence brought home to them was, their absenting themselves from the estate at night, to avoid carrying out dung by moonlight; and even in this offence some of the

sufferers were not implicated. One of them had only neglected his duty as a watchman.

It may seem strange, after reading the act on which the indictment was founded, that any evidence of this kind should be received, since no offence on the part of the slaves could justify the cruel conduct of the master. But it will be thought still stranger, perhaps, that the defendant's counsel should argue to the *jury against their obligation to respect the act itself, speaking of it in the most contemptuous way, and intimating that it was passed merely to satisfy the clamours of some individuals in England, whom it was necessary to appease.* Such, however, appears to have been the nature of the defence; and the defence was effectual. Mr. Huggins, after a short deliberation by the jury, was acquitted!!!

It may be thought, that at least the offender will be discountenanced hereafter by the more respectable members of the society. On the contrary, a party was making in his favour, to turn his opponents out of the Assembly at the present year's election, and place in their stead a majority, who may expunge the resolution recorded against him; and by the last accounts, two of his sons were just returned. The president of the council, being his son-in-law, is the less inexcusable for taking an active part on his behalf; and the influence of his own property and possessions in that small island is very considerable. But in the West Indies a master, prosecuted for the abuses of his power over his slave, is always sure to find zealous partizans in abundance, among the many who are conscious that the case may be their own.

Mr. Huggins is so well aware of this, that he has not been content to stand on the defensive. He has prosecuted, in St. Christopher, the printer of the Gazette in that island, for inserting the minutes sent to him by order of the Assembly; and the prosecution has been so popular there, that one jury staid out of court a long time (it is said three days) because they could not agree in finding the defendant not guilty, though satisfied of his innocence in point of intention.

A juror at length was withdrawn, and a second trial afterwards had, when the following verdict was found: "Guilty of publishing a libel, issued by the House of Assembly of Nevis, under a mistaken opinion that it was not a libel, and that the authority of that body justified his publishing their resolutions."

The printer was sentenced to a month's imprisonment, and to find bail to keep the peace for three years.

The case, in consequence of these proceedings, has naturally excited much attention, and produced great party animosities in the islands of St. Christophers and Nevis, especially in the latter.

That it has not been officially represented to the Secretary of State for the Colonial Department is not strange, considering the state of things in those islands. Some private gentlemen have, however, transmitted the case to their correspondents in England, with a view to a representation to Government, and they seem anxiously to hope from it some official support to the cause of humanity.

The above statement is fully confirmed, in all its parts, by the papers transmitted from the West Indies to the Earl of Liverpool, one of his Majesty's principal secretaries of state, and since laid on the table of the House of Commons. From these papers, some extracts will now be inserted.

Notes of the Trial, in the Case of the King v. *Edward Huggins, sen. Esq., on an Indictment for Cruelty in the Punishment inflicted on several of his Slaves, on the 23d Jan.* 1810; *furnished by the Defendant's Counsel.*

"Evidence adduced in support of the prosecution.

"*John Burke*, being duly sworn, deposed,

"That on Tuesday the 23d January 1810, he, the witness, was in the street opposite the Rev. Mr. Green's house, when

he saw the defendant and his two sons, Edward and Peter Huggins, ride by with a gang of negroes; the negroes were taken to the market-place, from whence he heard the cart-whip.

"That witness walked up street, and saw defendant standing by with two drivers, who were flogging a negro man, named, as witness believes, Yellow Quashy.

"Witness went and sat down in Doctor Crosse's gallery—Says, that two drivers continued flogging said negro man for about fifteen minutes.—Says, that as this man appeared to be severely whipped, he was induced to count the lashes given the others, conceiving the country would take up the business.—Says, that defendant gave one man one hundred and fifteen lashes; to another sixty-five; to another forty-seven; to another one hundred and sixty-five; to another two hundred and forty-two; to another two hundred and twelve; to another one hundred and eighty-one; to another fifty-nine; to another one hundred and eighty-seven; to a negro woman one hundred and ten; to another woman fifty-eight; to another woman ninety-seven; to another woman two hundred and twelve; another woman two hundred and ninety-one; another woman eighty-three; another woman forty-nine; another woman sixty-eight; another woman eighty-nine; and another woman fifty-six.

"Witness says, that the woman who received two hundred and ninety-one lashes, appeared to be young, but most cruelly flogged.

"That all the negroes were flogged by two expert whippers; says, that Mr. Edward Huggins, jun. and Mr. Peter Huggins, were present at the punishment; says, that Dr. Cassin was present when some of them were whipped; that Dr. Cassin was present when a man received two hundred and forty-two lashes.

"Witness says, he understood Dr. Cassin was sent for by Mr. Huggins, the defendant; says, that Mr. Parris, Mr. Peter Butler, and Dr. Crosse, were present at Dr. Crosse's house part of the time.

"Says, that Mr. Joseph Nicholson, Mr. Joseph Laurence, and Mr. William Keepe, were present there all the time.

"Being cross-examined, says, that he has been fourteen years secretary of the island.

"Being asked, if he had not heard, whilst secretary, hearsay evidence objected to? admitted that he had.

"Being asked, if he had not sworn before Mr. Laurence, as to what he had heard Mr. George Abbot say on the 23d January? witness admitted he had done so.

"Being interrogated, if he did not know it was wrong to give evidence of the declarations of a third person, particularly when such third person might be called himself? he did not answer. Says, that he understood the offence the negroes had committed, was quitting their work. He did not think that offence required such severe correction. He could see the punishment take place; he was near enough to see it.

"He never saw any sailor punished at all.

"Never saw a soldier punished for desertion, or any thing else.

"*William Keepe*, sworn; says, the slaves were severely flogged; believes the first received about three hundred lashes, the second about one hundred, the third about two hundred.

"Says, that three or four were very severely flogged; has heard of other punishments as severe in their effects, but not the same number of lashes; admits that three hundred lashes might not have produced worse effects than seventy or eighty. Says, that such a number of lashes might have produced death, if not carefully laid on. Says, that they could not walk afterwards. The floggings commenced about nine o'clock, and were over about eleven or twelve; one of them took up three quarters of an hour. Defendant delayed the flogging by asking questions. Witness was at Dr. Crosse's, but could not see if all the lashes struck, believes the account given by Mr. Burke to be pretty correct.

"*Joseph Nicholson*, sworn; deposed that the second negro appeared to be flogged severely; there were two drivers

employed. Witness believes Mr. Burke's account of the lashes to be too much.

"Cross-examined.—Admits he only heard they run away; he afterwards learnt the offence to be very serious; says, that three of the negroes were more severely flogged than he ever saw before; don't say but there have been negroes as severely flogged as these three, but he never saw them. He had never known punishment inflicted on negroes shewing a general disposition to go away. Admits the negroes of Ward's estate went away twice in a body, also Maynard's once, Hamilton's once, Nesbitt's once, and Tobin's once.

"*Joseph Laurence* sworn; deposes, he has seen negroes flogged as severely as these; some were severely punished, and some were not. Will not say all the lashes fell upon the negroes, though he was at Dr. Crosse's.

"Cross-examined.—Says, the negroes upon an estate at St. Vincent, where he resided for some time, were disorderly, and the punishment on that occasion was inflicted by the managers; saw a woman there receive three hundred lashes for refusing to obey the orders of the managers.

"*William Pemberton* sworn; says, he attended as a magistrate to inspect the negroes; saw them the eighth day, all but the driver, whom he saw the sixth; some of them were severely flogged, particularly Quashy, Ned, William Coker, Nellys Juba, Madges Juba, Catherine, Castile, and Range. Says, they were all well taken care of. Thinks the punishment too severe for any private individual to inflict; thinks it ought to have been inflicted by the magistrates. Admits the negroes on many estates had gone away in bodies. Says, an alarm was fired on Ward's negroes going away the second time.

"*Henry Barnes* sworn; saw the punishment inflicted, his house nearer than Dr. Crosse's; thought the flogging severe; never saw the negroes afterwards. The punishment took up a considerable time; for after giving the first negro a few licks, a question was asked, and his answer appeared to be taken down in writing; the greatest number of lashes

was given to one woman, who received two hundred and eighty-one lashes.

"*Doctor Cassin* sworn; deposes, he was present at the flogging, he thought the punishment severe, but at that time he did not know the magnitude of their crime; he thought one of the negroes looked ill, but he did not know the man's crime when he interfered. Heard the negroes say on the estate, they were trying their new master; they always did so.

"Witness observed a freedom of conduct among these negroes, not observable upon any other estate; thought he even observed a rebellious disposition among them.

"Witness says, no dangerous symptom from the punishment appeared in any of the negroes; David was ill afterwards, but his indisposition did not arise from his flogging. Saw them the second or third day after the flogging, as soon as he thought his assistance was requisite.

"Gave his directions to bleed in case of fever, and give salts.

"On the seventh or eighth day after the punishment, Messrs. Wilkes, Liburd, and Pemberton, with witness, as magistrates, went and examined them particularly, as strange reports were in agitation. Mr. Wilkes paid great attention: three had fevers, very often the case after the punishment, from their constitutions; one man who had been reported dead had no fever, he was said to have been severely punished, but his complaint was a pleurisy. Three or four of them were detained from work for about seven days more; none were ever in danger of dying from the whipping. One only, who was slightly punished, was in danger from other causes; viz. pain in the stomach. Says, that defendant always feeds and clothes his slaves as well as any planter, and better than a great number; that no expense is spared for them when sick. Witness was astonished to find how little impression the punishment had made. There were two drivers; one made a great noise, without much effect; the other, without much noise, made a stronger effect.

"Thought Mr. Huggins must have observed how little effect was produced by one of the drivers, and that he connived at it, supposing him to wish to appear to punish more severely than he actually did punish. Says, he bled some a second time, because they had not enough blood taken from them at first.

"Cross-examined; says, they were severely flogged, but thinks they deserved it; one side was more cut than the other, and believes defendant overlooked it from policy and humane motives.

"*Andrew Maore Crosse*, sworn; says, the negroes were severely flogged, but he did not know their crime when the punishment was inflicting. Believes Mr. Burke's account to be correct.

"*Samuel Bennett*, sworn; says, he never saw such correction in all his life; they were flogged very severely; two or three were very unruly. Says, the whips had wire lashes at the end of them. Being asked how he alone came to find out that the whips had wire lashes; says, he was told so; and he believes it, for they did not crack. Upon being asked, who told him so? says, one of his own negroes, and that several others told him so; says, that one of the negroes must have had from five to seven hundred lashes.

"*Thomas Atherton*, sworn; questioned whether he had any conversation with the defendant on the subject of the punishment of his negroes previous to the infliction of the punishments; says, that he never had any conversation whatever with the defendant on the subject. Being asked whether the defendant had not, in conversation with him, declared his intention of severely whipping his negroes in the public market in Charlestown, denies that any such conversation ever passed."

"Evidence produced on the part of the Defendant.

"*Peter Thomas Huggins*, sworn; says, that before he went to live on the estate purchased by his father (the defendant) from Mr. Pinney, witness understood the negroes

to be a very troublesome and refractory gang, worse than any other in the island.

" That Mr. John Henry Clarke, the last liver upon the property, could not bring them into any proper state of subjection.

" Witness conceived it highly necessary to bring them into a regular system of obedience, and conceived that moderate measures steadily pursued were most likely to conduce to that end. Witness says, it soon appeared the negroes were determined to try their new master, as they called it; they early commenced a system of opposition; from oppesition they proceeded to actual disobedience; from disobedience they proceeded to riot, and from riot to rebellion.

" Being interrogated as to what acts of riot and rebellion they were guilty of? says, that frequently six or eight would run away together, and the hunters sent after them seldom or ever brought them back; witness knows the hunters had frequent interviews with the runaways; witness has only threatened to punish the hunters for this misconduct, which generally caused them to run away also. Says, that from twenty to thirty have come at once into the sick-house, without the doctor being able to discover any indisposition in any of them; the doctor told one of them he was not sick, who answered he knew that, but they were doing so to try their master. Witness says, that being at first without any overseer, he was obliged to attend to every thing himself; says, he ordered them to throw grass into the pens at night, a regular practice upon his father's other properties, and usual with all other estates: this these negroes had not been accustomed to, and they were much displeased at witness for ordering it.

" Witness says, that one night, in the second week after the negroes had thrown their grass, not one of them quitted the yard; he was willing to suppose they might be tired, and he took no notice to them of this unusual conduct.

" Witness called a boatman, and gave him his directions for next morning, which orders he was also to make known

to his brother. Witness then mounted his horse, and the boatman called for his brother, upon which the whole gang surrounded him, and tumultuously demanded what witness had been saying; the boatman answered, 'nothing about you—I want to speak to my brother;' that all the negroes then fell upon the boatman with their sticks; and witness thinks might have killed him, if he had not been timely rescued out of their hands.

"Says, that the boatman was rescued from the negroes by John Smith, witness's brother's groom, who brought the boatman to witness, and informed witness the negroes were all in the lower yard armed with sticks; witness immediately rode to the lower yard, but only found six or seven men there; two of whom witness secured, the rest of the six or seven ran away.

"In the night a heavy rain fell, and witness, early next morning, sent to the drivers to have the pens cleared out, but not one of the gang made their appearance for two or three hours: when they appeared and were collected, witness punished the ringleaders of the disturbance the preceding evening, and also the drivers for having suffered it. Witness apprehends the negroes must have meditated something serious the preceding night, having found out the next day that they had employed the watchman on the bay to cut sticks for them.

"Witness says, they remained after this for some time tolerably quiet, though frequently disobeying witness's orders, and neglecting to do what they were told.

"Witness says, that having no white person on the estate who could stake the land properly, and to his satisfaction, he undertook it himself, for the instruction of the driver; witness staked one side of a piece, and took pains to shew the driver how he did it, that he might be able to stake the other side, who assured witness he could do it very well; but to prevent the possibility of his going wrong, witness also staked the first row of this side of the piece himself, and directed the driver to follow it. Witness then went to

town, and on his return to the field found the stakes he had placed taken up and altered, and that the driver was staking the land his own way. Witness then demanded of the driver, if this side was staked like the other; he answered, it was done right: witness again demanded, if the driver had followed witness's stakes, and if it was staked as witness had lain it out; he again answered, and persisted that it was done right, with great impertinence in his manner.

"Witness alighted from his horse to convince him the more easily of his error; the driver thereupon attempted to run away, but witness caught him, and struck him with his horsewhip; immediately the whole gang threw down their hoes and advanced towards witness, who, not knowing their intention, declared to them, that the first that got over the wall he would put to death; this threat appeared to alarm and stop them for a moment.

"Witness then ordered an old driver, named Wiltshire, to call out four of the men, which he did three times distinctly by name, but all in vain; they also refused to come out upon being called by witness; witness then knocked one of the men down, and seized another, when they approached towards the driver who had been staking the land, but they would not touch him for a considerable time, till witness threatened them with punishment. Witness then caused the driver to be whipped, and also the four men for their disobedience. Witness says, that after this he could get nothing done when he was out of the field. Says, that to punish the negroes for not working in the day in his absence, he ordered them to carry dung out of the pens for an hour every night; he directed them to begin Saturday the 13th January, being moonlight; but they refused, and all of them went to their houses.

"Witness then directed the driver Wiltshire to go to every negro-house, and acquaint them they should be exchanged for defendant's Gingerland negroes if they did not come to their work on Monday morning. Says, they came to work on Monday, and he then informed them that he

would forgive their disobedience in not carrying out the dung on Saturday, observing, that perhaps they had erred through bad advice; witness, however, gave them to understand his orders on that subject must be obeyed that night; but at night they all ran away, except a few old families.

" Says, none of the negroes came to their work on Tuesday morning. Witness went over to his father, the defendant, to ask his advice; soon after his return saw Mr. Tobin (the attorney of the former owner), bringing home about sixty of the negroes; witness desired them to go into the field to their work; some of the women did so immediately, some not until the day was far advanced, and several not until the following morning; only one man came into the field till Saturday following, when about three more made their appearance.

" On Saturday night and Sunday, being the 20th and 21st of January, most of the men came home, some of their own accord, and some brought in by hunters.

" Witness says, that on Thursday the 18th January he repeated his order to carry dung, but the negroes seemed determined still to resist witness's orders; and all of them went away a third time. An old watchman met a party, who told him they were going away again; who advised them, as witness had not punished them for going away before, to return and do their work quietly; but they told him to hold his tongue, and that he was crazy.

" On Friday witness gave out that he would send for his father's (defendant's) hunters, and borrow others from his friends; and that when the runaways should be caught, they should be publicly punished and exchanged for the Gingerland negroes. They, however, came in this day.

" On the 21st, witness again directed dung to be carried out; some still disobeyed. Witness stopped a party who were going to their houses, and made them carry it for some time.

" On the following Monday, witness observed the same disorderly disposition amongst the negroes, who, not having been punished for their last week's misconduct, made witness con-

sider it had now become absolutely necessary to have them publicly chastised, not only as due to their particular and continued misconduct, but as an example to deter other slaves from similar misconduct; as witness says, some of the slaves of the neighbouring estates had shewn a disposition to revolt.

" Witness admits the defendant caused the negroes, mentioned in the indictment, to be punished in the public market-place in Charlestown. Denies that they were punished inhumanly. Considers their punishment to have been mild, compared with the offences they had been guilty of.

" Witness says, he has seen negroes, from twenty-five lashes, with fever; and from thirty-nine lashes; he has seen negroes affected as severely as those who were more punished.

" Says, that no man in the island feeds or clothes his slaves better than defendant, and many not near so well. Says, that the negroes, during their misconduct, wantonly killed two mules belonging to the estate; and one man threatened to put another man to death with a bayonet.

" Says, that the slave Aberdeen was punished on being detected cutting the canes on which he was placed as a watchman, and carrying them to Webb's negro-houses to feed pigs with.

" *John Dasent Smith*, sworn; deposes, That he lives near Pinney's estate; has known the gang of negroes belonging to that estate a long time; always knew them to be a most unruly set; has been frequently obliged to send up at night to desire them to desist from drumming, quarrelling, fighting, and rioting.

" Witness says, that Frank Fisher, one of the turbulent negroes of the estate, once asked witness what he was to do, if he was always working for his master.

" Says, that defendant is well known for feeding and clothing his slaves abundantly. Says that Mr. Clarke, the former liver upon the estate, has been obliged to punish Frank Fisher for insolence.

" Says, that Mr. Clarke frequently complained they stole

his stock, and behaved so disorderly, that he was quite dissatisfied with them.

" Witness says, that these negroes stole his sheep also; he could keep nothing for them. Says, that since Mr. Huggins's possession, they have done very little work upon the estate. He does not think they have cultivated as much land, or done as much work upon it, as the witness's gang, though a considerably less numerous one, have done upon his estate.

" Honourable *William Worthington Wilkes*, sworn; he, with other magistrates, viewed the negroes after their punishment; seven or eight were severely punished, but nothing likely to endanger life or limb, and not more than three of them in such a manner, as would induce a man to inquire for what they had been punished; two or three only had fever, and very little. Witness conceives they may have committed many other offences of less magnitude, for which the punishment inflicted would not have been too much. Says, that he himself would not have flogged so many of them for that offence, but he would have flogged some of them as severely as any of those had been. Thinks the punishment mild, when the offence is considered.

" Defendant always fed and clothed his slaves very well.

" *Henry Rawlins*, sworn; says, he saw the negroes after they were punished; considered the punishment not too severe for the offence; thought it rather mild, considering the crime.

" Has seen fifty lashes as effectual, and as hurtful, as the whole number given to any of the negroes in the indictment.

" Says, that Lord Romney's negroes at St. Kitt's, were punished some years ago for disobedience, with all the severity they were capable of bearing.

" Says, he believes their punishment was inflicted by a sentence of the magistrates of that island.

" John Woodley,
" George Tyson,
" Samuel Long,
" Sam. Pemberton, } Counsel for the Defendant."

Notes of the same Trial, furnished by the Counsel for the Crown.

"The indictment contained two counts:—The first count, thenames of the negroes whipped belonging to the estate late Pinney's—The second count, generally, for whipping divers slaves, to the number of thirty.

"The witnesses on the part of the prosecution were, first,

"*John Burke*, jun. who stated,

"That he was present on the 23d of January:—That he did not count the first lashes, but he counted the next and the following; and he then stated the number of the negroes punished, and the number of lashes given to each, as follows: Men, 115, 65, 47, 165, 242, 212, 181, 59, and 187; and women, 110, 58, 97, 212, 291, 83, 49, 68, 89, and 56.

"Upon his cross-examination:

"That he had heard they had deserted their work. He did not consider the offence required such a severe punishment. That he saw the lashes take place; that he was near enough to see them. That he never saw a soldier or sailor punished.

"Second witness, *William Keepe;* who stated,

"That he was present on the 23d of January:—That the flogging of the first negro took up nearly three quarters of an hour, including the time that Mr. Huggins took to ask him, who told him to go away:—That he believed this negro received three hundred lashes:—That the second negro appeared to have been flogged before, as his posteriors were lacerated.

"That the third negro received about two hundred:—That he never saw a punishment so severe.

"Upon his cross-examination:

"That he had seen a negro on an estate lashed with seventy or eighty lashes:—That if the lashes which some of the negroes received had been laid on by some drivers, he thought it would have occasioned death.

" Third witness, *Joseph Nicholson;* who stated,

" That he had lived on estates in which he had seen a disposition to disobey, but he never knew negroes so severely punished:—That he never heard of such a punishment:—That he lived on Ward's estate during the time that the negroes went away, and they were taken by hunters; they were punished in the public market-place by the authority of a magistrate.

" Fourth witness, *Joseph Lawrence;* who stated,

" That the negroes were flogged severely; but he has seen negroes as severely flogged:—That the number of lashes given to one woman was counted by Mr. Burke, he believed, two hundred and ninety-one:—That he has seen a flogging at St. Vincent's as severe.

" Fifth witness, *William Pemberton;* who stated,

" That he saw the driver on the ninth day, and the other negroes on the eight day after the flogging, and that eight of the negroes appeared to have been severely flogged; some were in their own houses, and others in the sick-house:—That the names of the eight negroes were Quashey, Ned, William Coker, Nellys Juba, Madges Juba, Catharine, Castile, and Range:—That there was not any appearance of their being flogged, as if to be passed slightly.

" Upon his cross-examination:

" That he believed Mr. Ward's negroes behaved as badly as Mr. Huggins's gang:—That he thought it was too severe for an individual to inflict:—That he never heard of such a punishment, even for similar offences.

" Sixth witness, *Henry Barnes;* stated,

" That he reckoned two hundred and eighty lashes as to one negro, but he did not reckon any other number of lashes.

" Seventh witness, Dr. *Cassin:*

" This witness gave his evidence in the nature of a narrative, in which, as far as I recollect, he was allowed to enter into a detail of his reasons for being present at the punishment, and his opinion of the offence committed by the negroes; and as

I found it impossible to follow him with my notes, I did not enter any.

"The principal purport of his evidence, as applicable to the cause, was, as far as I recollect, respecting his attendance as a medical man on the negroes that were punished, and his description of the symptoms of fever, and time of its continuance on those who were most severely flogged.

"On the part of the Defendant:

"*Peter Thomas Huggins* was examined; who stated:

"That he had been given to understand that the negroes were refractory.

"That shortly after he went to the estate (the first or second week) after he had caused them to throw grass in the pens, he observed them waiting in the yard; he then took no notice:—That he afterwards gave an order to one of the boatmen, who was set upon by the rest of the gang, and he would have been beaten had it not been for the groom:—That on the following morning, the gang came into the yard late, and reluctantly, and he flogged the drivers and ringleaders, and they behaved pretty well afterwards.

"That some time afterwards, witness took upon himself to hole (meaning that he lined the land for holing) the land, and the driver altered the line; that he offered to punish him, and he escaped; that the gang then left their work, and that he, the witness, threatened to shoot the first that did not obey his orders:—That in consequence of this conduct, he resolved to make them carry dung every night, commencing from that Monday night; and the negroes again left their work:—That they were brought home by Mr. Tobin, to the number of 60, and that the witness afterwards repeated the order to carry dung:—That he found greater difficulty to manage the negroes than before:—That he had a mule killed by a fellow, who broke its thigh with a stone:—That another mule was killed in the mountain:—That some of the negroes that were flogged have since run away.

"Upon his cross-examination:

"That he persisted in making them carry dung.

"That there was a negro punished in the market-place, who was not one of Pinney's gang; he belonged to his father's estate; his name was Aberdeen.

"Second witness, *John Dascnt Smith;* stated,

"That he knew they were a riotous gang:—That he had frequently been obliged to apply to Mr. Clarke, the former occupier of the estate.

"Third witness, *William W. Wilkes* (one of the Judges):

"That he went with Mr. Pemberton to see the negroes after they were punished; there were eight or nine who appeared to have received a severe whipping; but not so as to endanger life:—That he has known a scratch give a fever.

"(Signed) James Weekes."

Mr. Weekes's notes are accompanied by a letter, containing the following additional information:

"In my address to the jury on that occasion, and in reply to the evidence of justification on the part of Mr. Huggins, I founded my claim to a verdict of Guilty, upon the principle, that, although the laws of the Leeward Islands did not exactly prescribe the extent of punishment by a master on a slave, as to the number of lashes, yet, like many other regulated principles of moral actions, custom had prescribed it.

"That not in the history of the colony, even in early times, when the avarice of first settlers rendered the condition of slaves more wretched than now, could I learn of an instance of such a punishment for such an offence. That there was not any modern instance to be compared to it; and that when the ameliorated condition of the negroes, and happily the almost general sentiment of humanity which prevailed throughout the British Colonies, were considered, it was impossible to judge this punishment otherwise than excessive and cruel.

"That in point of policy, the power of the master over his slave should not be exercised for a crime, which, if it justified such a punishment, might, by parity of reasoning, also justify the infliction of death, without the sanction or interference of

the magistracy; and that if it was admitted, as I believed it would be by all, that the death of one of these slaves would have subjected Mr. Huggins to the consequences of murder, it surely would not be denied, that, having incurred such a risk by excessive severity, he must be considered as guilty of a high misdemeanour. That I thought the justification set up by the defendant's evidence, failed in proving any thing like a rebellion on the estate; and that a less violent conduct towards the negroes, who, it was generally supposed, had conceived a violent prejudice against their new master, would have had the effect of bringing them to a sense of their duty, which, it is evident from Mr. Huggins's evidence, the severity of the punishment had not. To these observations, I shall beg leave only to add, that the sentiments delivered as an advocate are strongly impressed on my mind at this moment."

It has been already stated, that a verdict was returned of Not Guilty.

The following are the Resolutions of the Assembly and Council at Nevis, which led to the prosecution of Mr. Huggins.

"Charlestown, Nevis, Assembly-room, Jan. 31, 1810.

"Resolved, That it is the opinion of this House, that the conduct of *Edward Huggins*, sen. Esq. on Tuesday the 23d of this month, in inflicting punishment on several of his negroes, in the public market-place of this town, was both cruel and illegal; and that particularly in two cases, where two hundred and forty-three and two hundred and ninety-one lashes were given, he was guilty of an act of barbarity altogether unprecedented in this Island; that this House do hold such conduct in the utmost abhorrence and detestation, which sentiments perfectly accord with the feelings of the community in general.

"That this House do pledge themselves to promote the strictest investigation into this cruel proceeding; so disgraceful to humanity, so injurious to the fair character of the inhabitants, and so destructive of the best interests of the West-India Colonies.

"Resolved, That the above Resolutions, with the evidence taken in support thereof, be printed; that copies be transmitted to England, and circulated throughout all the islands.

"Resolved, That a copy of the foregoing Resolutions, with the evidence taken in support thereof, be sent to the Council for their consideration."

"His Honour the President and Council to the Gentlemen of the Assembly.

"Gentlemen—This Board has considered the Resolutions of your House, and the Evidence taken respecting the conduct of Mr. Edward Huggins, sen. and adopt the sentiments of your House, in respect to the acts of cruelty stated by such evidence to have been committed; and this Board is of opinion, that every legal measure should be taken to bring the party to trial.

"But this Board is also of opinion, that as the party charged must be tried by another tribunal, the publication of any evidence previous to such trial should be avoided.

"By command,

"JOHN BURKE, jun.

"Council Chamber, Jan. 31, 1810. "Clerk of Council."

The following Letters will throw additional light on this transaction.

Extract of a Letter from Governor Elliot to the Earl of Liverpool, dated Antigua, Nov. 20, 1810.

"Your Lordship will be pleased to observe, that in my Dispatches, No. 10, of the 8th September, and No. 13, of the 29th September, I expressed my regret to find, that by all the most authentic accounts I had received of the other islands of this government, there was but too much reason to apprehend that great irregularities existed, and which could not, perhaps, be effectually remedied without a future appeal to the wisdom of His Majesty's Councils at home. The case of Mr. *Huggins*, in the island of *Nevis*, the severity of his

conduct towards a number of his slaves, the remissness of the magistrates in having allowed so disgraceful a transaction to take place in the public market-place, without interfering to stop or prevent it, the legal proceedings which have since ensued, both at Nevis and St. Christopher's, and which have occasioned great dissatisfaction, were some of the circumstances which bore in my mind, when I expressed to your Lordship, generally, my doubt of the efficiency of the civil institutions, as they now exist, in the other islands, for the purposes of administering justice, or for carrying into effect any sentence of law that might be opposed, either by the influence of a powerful individual, or by the spirit of party."

Extract of a Letter from the same to the same, dated Antigua, Nov. 21, 1810.

"In referring to the case of Mr. Huggins, it will be necessary to advert to an Act, now styled The Meliorating Act, as intended to ameliorate the state of the slaves in this government, passed at St. Christopher's in the month of April, 1798, and confirmed the 6th of March, 1799. In this Act there are four clauses which relate to the punishment of slaves, the 15th, 16th, 17th, and 18th. Of these I need only transcribe the 15th clause herewith annexed, in which your Lordship will be pleased to observe the following passage:

"'It is hereby expressly declared and enacted, that if any 'person shall *cruelly whip, maltreat, beat, or imprison, or keep 'in confinement, without sufficient support,* any slave under his 'or her direction or care, such person shall be indicted for 'the same in the superior Court of Criminal Jurisdiction for 'the Island wherein such offence shall be committed, and 'upon being legally convicted thereof, shall suffer such 'punishment, by fine or imprisonment, or both, as the 'Judges or Justices of the said Court shall think proper to 'inflict.'

"Unfortunately, the provision contained in the above pas-

sage does not limit the number of lashes to be inflicted upon a slave to thirty-nine, as is the case in the 14th clause of the Consolidated Act, passed at Jamaica in the year 1792; of which clause I also subjoin a copy, in order that your Lordship may the more readily compare the two. But even taking the 15th clause of the Leeward Islands Meliorating Act, as it now stands, it is indeed difficult to conceive by what perversion of human reason, and still more, by what perversion of human feeling, any jury could have given a verdict of acquittal for punishments, in the course of which, I believe, it appeared, on incontrovertible evidence, that three hundred lashes of cart-whips, or nearly that number, had been inflicted in the public market-place, without the sentence of a magistrate, upon a considerable proportion of a gang of thirty-two negroes, who were all, more or less, severely punished, without having been convicted of any act, which, by the most forced construction, could be deemed mutinous or dangerous to the community at large. The problem is, therefore, I fear, only to be solved, by confirming the melancholy statement I have made in the outset of this dispatch, of the unworthy and inadequate materials which constitute those tribunals, so improperly styled Courts of Justice, in several of the West India Islands."

"Since I began this dispatch, I have received a letter from Dr. Cassin, of the island of Nevis, of the 20th November, of which I enclose a copy. It appears that Dr. Cassin, a magistrate in that island, was called upon by Mr. Huggins, to attend in his medical capacity, as physician, at the punishment of the negroes; at which he expresses his abhorrence, and endeavours to excuse himself as a magistrate, for not having prevented it, having then been ignorant of his duty, and not supposing that he had the power of interfering."

Copy of Dr. Cassin's Letter to Governor Elliot.

"Dr. Cassin, of the island of Nevis, is sorry to be called on, as he conceives is urgently the case, in justification of him-

self, for having as a magistrate suffered the very severe, and in his opinion, unjustifiable and cruel punishment of Mr. Edward Huggins's negroes, in the market-place of this island, on the 23d of January last past, to trouble his Honour the Commander in Chief with this communication, but trusts his Honour will have the goodness to excuse him; and further hopes he will be pleased to transmit this, with the other documents, to the Earl of Liverpool.

"On that occasion Dr. Cassin was called on by message from Mr. E. Huggins, twice at least, if not thrice, to attend in his *medical capacity;* which call he neglected to attend to, in consequence of his feelings being outraged on the occasion; and not till he understood *his opinion of the state of health* of one of the individuals to be punished was required, did he attend; when he was happy in so doing, as he had saved that individual from a severe punishment—when he conceived it his duty, *so called on as a medical man,* and particularly as the medical man then under an engagement to attend those negroes by the year. Though Dr. Cassin was then recently acting as a magistrate, with great shame does he confess, that he was in that instance ignorant of his duty, or he would undoubtedly have interfered on the part of humanity, and have put a stop to the proceedings; and which, he trusts, the inhabitants generally of this island will give him credit for public spirit enough to have done, notwithstanding his interests would have suffered much by it. Dr. Cassin begs further to observe, in consequence of his abhorrence of that transaction being generally known, he has long since lost the attendance of that estate, and the further interests of the party whose very good opinion he then held, but which he is rejoiced so to have lost."

"To his Honour the Commander in Chief,
&c. &c. &c.

"Nov. 20, 1810."

Extract of a Letter from J. W. Tobin, Esq. to Governor Elliot, dated Nevis, Aug. 17, 1810.

"Sir—Your Excellency has doubtless seen the Resolutions of the Assembly of Nevis, on the 31st January last, and the affidavits on which they were grounded. Coming from a country where the fountains of justice still remain pure, and the liberty of the press is respected, your Excellency must, I am persuaded, on your arrival here, have experienced the same feelings of surprize and indignation, which the respectable part of this community did, on hearing a VERDICT of ACQUITTAL pronounced against one of the actors in that bloody scene! The evidence on the trial was still stronger than in the affidavits; for it appeared, not only that several of the negroes received more than two hundred lashes, but that a still severer torture was inflicted on one of them, by the continued application of two cart-whips, to make him confess, what he persevered in declaring he was ignorant of; and this was sworn to by two respectable witnesses. One of the women received two hundred and ninety-two lashes. She is still alive! But another, of a weaker frame, and whose punishment was far less, died, after a lingering illness, the 22d of June last. Had they all died, the Act by which they suffered being, according to the declaration of that jury, a legal act, the authors of it would have been perfectly GUILTLESS; and every overseer in the country, however ignorant or brutal, left at full liberty to whip, mutilate, and destroy, at his pleasure, the Slaves committed to his charge. But, fortunately, the verdict of a jury makes no precedent in law; and CRUELTY, by the English law, which is in full force here, is still cruelty. It was not defined by our ancestors, or its limits marked out by line and compass, but left to the heart of man to determine: and deeply it is to be lamented, that in this small community such an appeal is found insufficient."

"Under these feelings, and a full persuasion that true policy must ever be founded on humanity the Assembly

passed their Resolutions; by which they have rescued themselves from that just disgrace which otherwise must have fallen on the whole community. For this, in a neighbouring island, they have been vilified as common libellers, and their printer punished by those who knew, or ought to have known, that the publication of an affidavit, taken with a view to bring a public offender to justice, or the censure of a legislative body on his conduct, could never, by any perversion of law or common sense, be construed into a libel."

Extract of a Letter from the same to the same, dated Nevis, Sept. 7, 1810.

"The late Assembly, after passing their Resolutions, not relying entirely on the zeal or abilities of Mr. Weekes, the Crown officer, who had once been presented to the Court, by a grand jury, for neglect of his public duty, and was known to have refused, as a magistrate, to accompany those who inspected the negroes who had suffered, applied to Mr. Caines. This gentleman, who is senior King's counsel, and is distinguished for his humanity and abilities, refused to come up; and in consequence the business devolved upon Mr. Weekes, who, after bargaining for an extraordinary fee, undertook the cause, a bill of indictment having been found against Mr. Huggins. The trial took place the 1st May, some of the names of the negroes who had been punished having been previously struck out of the indictment, and amongst these Fanny, or Affey, at that time dangerously ill; the Marshal proceeded to call the jury by a mode introduced by Mr. Weekes, since January 23d, and never before practised in this island, in a criminal cause. Two packs of cards were produced, and an open box. One of them was put aside; and from the other, which was neither shuffled or cut before the Court, the Marshal drew the cards that were uppermost. There were so many of Mr. H.'s friends on the jury, that no challenge was made to any of them by the prisoner's counsel; though after they were impannelled, on a by-stander's observ-

ing that there were ten for Mr. H. and two against him, Mr. Long, one of his counsel, replied, "They should not have been there, if I had known it." Amongst others who were on the jury were, William Bennet Frost, overseer to Mr. Huggins; John M. Hixon, overseer to his son-in-law, Mr. Cottle; and George Burke, at the time in custody of the Marshal for not paying a fine incurred for withdrawing from a former jury, on a cause in which Mr. Huggins was deeply concerned. Neither of these were objected to by Mr. Weekes, though on a subsequent trial he declared from the bench, that George Burke was unfit to sit on any jury. The prisoner, if so he might be called, never gave bail, or was in custody of any one; nor would imprisonment have been very practicable, as the jail of this island has long been in a very dilapidated state, and its keeper been chiefly employed as overseer to the Marshal. It could not be made out on the trial (though there were three barristers in silk gowns brought up from St. Kitt's by the prisoner), that of the thirty-two negroes who were flogged, any one of them had ever uttered a contumacious expression, or lifted a hand against a white man. Their crime was that of running away, to avoid carrying out dung by night, a practice contrary to a clause in the Melioration Act. A negro, named Aberdeen, brought from another estate of the prisoner's, was flogged with the rest; he received 187 lashes, on an accusation of breaking canes. This man's name was never admitted into the indictment. He was brother to one of the executioners."

"Your Excellency will doubtless be told that they who have exerted themselves in bringing to punishment the authors of such crimes, have been actuated by a spirit of party. Of that you will be well able to judge, when acquainted with all the circumstances. When I arrived a twelvemonth since in this country, Mr. Cottle, the president, made me an offer of a seat in the council, which I declined on the ground of ill health and want of sight; nor should I have thought of meddling in public affairs, but for the horrid outrages lately committed in this island, and the open violation of law and

justice which has followed them. Mr. Huggins, the author of these evils, when I was here sixteen years ago, was then as distinguished for his cruelty as in the present day, and his conduct held in abhorrence by every good man in the community, and by no one more than by Mr. Cottle, since become his son-in-law, neither deficient himself in understanding or humanity. Mr. John Stanley, late attorney general for these islands, some years since assured my father, that he was examined before a committee of the House of Commons respecting a murder committed by Mr. Huggins, who has not scrupled to acknowledge to a friend, that he shot a negro. It was understood at the time, that the body had been thrown into a negro hut, and burnt with it. An inquest was taken on the body of another negro, who died shortly after a most inhuman flogging; but the overseer, who is still in the island, refused to give any satisfactory evidence to the grand jury who examined him. Two wretched suicides, weary of life and the sufferings they endured, have been taken out of a cistern with their chains about them. Not whips and chains alone, but iron collars armed with spikes have been used, and I believe still are, as instruments of punishment by this man. Ignorant and brutal as he is, he has amassed an immense fortune, and still is grasping at the possession of more land and more negroes. His doctrine was, that it was cheaper to buy negroes than to breed them. He has publicly boasted of five attempts against his life by poison; and there are medical men who well know the facts. In the first six months after he took possession of the estate called Pinnings, nine negroes died without any epidemic disease. A wretched old woman came to me a few days ago, to tell me she was compelled to work in the field. She was a favourite house-negro in her former master's family, and had nursed one of his children. Being ordered to throw a mixture of gunpowder and salt-water on the mangled bodies of the negroes whipped in the market-place, she refused, and incurred the displeasure of her master; and her intellects have since been evidently disordered. An English

groom, who had been witness to many of these shocking scenes, quitted the estate with horror, and returned to England, where his testimony will have some weight, as he bears a very good character. The negro Fanny, who died, had not been accustomed to hard work for many years before Mr. H. got possession of the estate: but he put her into the field, and she was one of those ordered to carry out dung by night. She never worked with the hoe again after the whipping, and died of an atrophy. Of the three who composed the jury on the inquest, two were on the jury which acquitted Mr. Huggins; and the coroner was one of the magistrates, who, with unconcern, beheld the flogging in the market-place. This inquest was never returned to the secretary's office, as is usual, and was not to be found when called for by the grand jury, who, fortunately for the country, did not present either of the Mr. Huggins's, or we should have witnessed a trial more scandulous than the last."

Extract of a Letter from the Earl of Liverpool to Governor Elliot, dated Downing-street, 12th April, 1811.

"Sir,

"Your several dispatches, inclosing various documents in reference to the case of Mr. Huggins, have been received; and the narrative they contain of the unparalleled severity of that person towards his slaves, has not failed to make the deepest impression on the minds of his Majesty's government. It might have been hoped that the fear of disgrace attendant on an outrage of humanity so publicly exhibited, would have been sufficient, in any civilized country, for its prevention; but it never could have been supposed possible that so flagrant a violation of the clause of the Act, called 'the Melioration Act,' could be submitted to the cognizance of a court of justice, and be exempted from the punishment which the judge is empowered to inflict on conviction of the offender.

"With regard to the observations made in some of the letters transmitted by you, on the manner in which the jury was composed, and on the connection of some persons on that jury with Mr. Huggins himself, it might be difficult at this distance of time to prove that corrupt motives influenced the decision of that jury; but as it appears uncontradicted, and indeed admitted, that persons holding the office of magistrates were present at the punishment without interfering to prevent an act absolutely illegal in itself, I am commanded by His Royal Highness, The Prince Regent, to direct that you will remove from that honourable situation any magistrate or magistrates who actually witnessed the infliction of that punishment without interference, and who have no better justification of their conduct to allege than ignorance of the duties attached to their office; and I am to desire that this may be done with that degree of publicity that may mark, to the community to which they belong, His Royal Highness's reprobation of such culpable remissness on their part. As you state in your letter of the 18th January, that you are about to complete the tour of the islands, and as you will have an opportunity of a direct inquiry into the state of the civil and judicial institutions of each island, you will not fail to convey to me the fullest information on these points, that his Majesty's government may be enabled to consider what steps it may be fitting to take for the reform of any abuses that may exist in the administration of justice in the several islands under your command."

V.

To the Right Honourable the President and Directors of the African Institution.

St. Vincent.

The humble Memorial of JOHN WISE, *a free Negro Man of the said Island.*

Sheweth,

THAT your Memorialist was, in the year 1797, sold by Henry Haffey Esq. executor of William Wise deceased, as a slave to one Claude Alexander, a free Mulatto man of the said island, but, as your Memorialist is informed and advised, without any sufficient or legal title whatever so to do, in the said Henry Haffey.

That your Memorialist was employed by the said Claude Alexander as a mariner on board of a sloop of his called the Revenge.

That the said sloop having been hired by one James Wilson Esq. of the said island for a voyage to Martinique, then subject to the British crown, was, on the seventh day of October 1801, taken by a Spanish schooner, privateer, and carried first to the island of Margaritta (and from thence to Cumana on the Spanish main) in order to be legally condemned, where the said sloop, with the slaves and cargo on board were accordingly condemned in the Spanish court of vice-admiralty, as lawful prize to the captors, being then subjects of his Catholic Majesty, and at war with the King of Great Britain and his subjects.

That by beat of drum your Memorialist together with the other slaves taken on board said sloop, were then and there sold, under the decree of the said Spanish court of vice-admiralty, and your Memorialist was then and there purchased, by one Rubin Pitcher, an American. And about three months afterwards your Memorialist was again sold by the said Rubin Pitcher, and purchased by one John Gordon Esq. doctor of medicine, then living at St. Croix, in whose

service your Memorialist continued for several years, and until the time of his death, which happened in the city of Bath in England, on the 27th day of January 1807, your Memorialist having accompanied his said master to Europe for the benefit of his health, about twelve months after he became his slave.

That the said John Gordon, in consideration of the long and faithful services of your Memorialist, did manumit and for ever enfranchise your Memorialist, and settle upon him, by his last will, the sum of twenty pounds of lawful money of Great Britain; as a provision for him your Memorialist during his natural life, as a reward for his good conduct and fidelity in the service of his said master.

That your Memorialist after the death of his late said master John Gordon Esq. continued in service successively with various families at Bath, to wit, Mrs. Esdails, Mr. Brewers, and Mrs. Cotton of King-street, and afterwards at Bristol with one Mr. Otway, from which port he embarked as a steward on board the brig Theresa, belonging to Messrs. Brice and Co. of the said city, and whereof George Sele was master, on the day of June or July last past, at the wages of 4*l.* 15*s.* per month, during her voyage out and home, from the said port of Bristol to Trinidad and back.

That on the 18th day of November last, the said brig touched at the island of St. Vincent, on her homeward bound voyage; and on the 19th, your Memorialist was seized and brought on shore, by virtue of a warrant granted by Daniel M'Dowall, Esq., one of the justices of the said island; and upon the oath of the before mentioned Claude Alexander, claiming your Memorialist as his runaway slave, he was, without any hearing or the permission of any explanation allowed him, committed by the said Daniel M'Dowall to the common gaol of the said island, as a runaway, and as the slave and property of the said Claude Alexander, in defiance of all law and justice whatever, and there detained until the following day, when by virtue of an order to the provost marshal of the said island, from the said Daniel M'Dowall, he was released from prison, and delivered up in

bondage to the said Claude Alexander, as his lawful reclaimed slave and property, as by true and certified copies of the said warrant and order, and the certificate of the said provost marshal hereunto annexed, will fully appear.

That a gentleman by the name of Hugh Perry Keane Esq., formerly of Lincoln's Inn, barrister of law, but now resident in this island, having been made acquainted with the circumstances, did immediately and gratuitously take up the case of your Memorialist, and having in the first instance, to no effect, applied to the said Daniel M'Dowall, the justice aforesaid, who insisted that the said Claude Alexander had a right to seize and secure his former property wherever he could find it, and therefore to seize and again enslave your Memorialist; and having likewise, to no purpose, applied to the said Claude Alexander for the release of your Memorialist, he, the said Hugh Perry Keane, did sue out a Habeas Corpus, to oblige the said Claude Alexander to appear before William Taylor Esq. the chief justice of the Court of King's Bench and Common Pleas of the said island with the body of him, your Memorialist, in order that the said William Taylor, chief justice, might examine into the cause of the caption, detention, and imprisonment of him, your Memorialist, and release, bail, or remand him, as the circumstances of the case should require, as by the said writ of Habeas Corpus, and the return thereon, hereunto annexed, will appear.

That the said Hugh Perry Keane, on the part of your Memorialist, did state before the said chief justice, all the circumstances of the case, and did contend, that after the before-mentioned capture and condemnation of the said sloop Revenge, with the cargo and slaves on board, and your Memorialist as one of them, the said Claude Alexander could have no right, or title, or property whatever in your Memorialist; the same having passed, if any there ever were, to the captors, as lawful prize, by virtue of the condemnation aforesaid, and from them by public sale to the said Rubin Pitcher, and by purchase from him to the said John Gordon. And the said Hugh Perry Keane did further insist, that the

manumission of your Memorialist by the said John Gordon, at Bath, was conclusive, as to all former claims on your Memorialist as a slave or bondsman, and completely established the freedom of your Memorialist with the rights and privileges of a freeman to all intents and purposes. And the said Hugh Perry Keane did then and there produce two competent and creditable witnesses; James Wilson, Esq. who had hired the said sloop, and was on board of her at the time of her capture by the enemy, and carried to Cumana, and William Hinds, formerly master of a vessel, and in the employ of the said Rubin Pitcher, who was at Margaritta and Cumana, at the time of the condemnation of the said sloop with the cargo and slaves, and who carried your Memorialist, with other slaves then purchased at the said public sale, from thence over to Saint Croix, for the said Rubin Pitcher. And by such witnesses he did offer to prove upon oath, before the said chief justice, the aforesaid capture, condemnation, and sale, with all and every particular relating thereunto at large: and did also further offer to prove, by Willian Glenn, Esq. of the said island, who well knew your Memorialist at Bath in the service of the said John Gordon, your Memorialist's residence and services with his said master, and the high opinion and regard his said master bore towards him, together with all other circumstances relating to the death of the said John Gordon, and the acknowledged freedom of your Memorialist. But the counsel on the part of the said Claude Alexander did oppose the admission of such *viva voce* evidence, and insist before the said chief justice, that he, the said chief justice, could not take cognizance of the case in such form and manner, or allow any such evidence to militate against the claim of property made by the said Claude Alexander on your deponent as his slave; but that the same should be tried by action at law before the Court of King's Bench and Common Pleas, when and where the sentence of condemnation itself or a certified transcript thereof from Cumana ought to be produced as the only admissible evidence; while, on the con-

trary, the said Hugh Perry Keane did insist, that under the writ of Habeas Corpus the said chief justice was bound to examine and determine the case, not as a question of property, but of personal liberty due to the subject; and that such parol evidence as he did then offer to produce were fully competent and sufficient, as it would be in a case of loss upon a policy of insurance to recover against the assurers: and that from the impossibility, in time of war, of obtaining other evidence from the vice-admiralty courts of an enemy; and from the difficulty of doing so, in time of peace, from a port so far to leeward, and distant from the island of St. Vincent with which there is no trade or intercourse whatever; as well as from the want of any power or authority in a British court over the registry or records of any foreign independent colony, such evidence was the best that could possibly be produced, and, if not admitted, that your Memorialist would be without remedy. That as to any action at law, none could be maintained by your Memorialist, while considered and held in bondage as a slave, by virtue of an order of one of the justices of the said island; and in that respect, therefore, he was utterly without any redress whatever. Yet, notwithstanding, the said chief justice did refuse to enter into the question, or to hear the witnesses; but, contrary to law, as well as the just rights and freedom of your Memorialist, did deliver up your Memorialist to the said Claude Alexander, as his lawful slave and property. Whereupon the said Hugh Perry Keane did except to such decision, and call upon the said chief justice to certify his bill of exceptions.

And your Memorialist was accordingly delivered up to the said Claude Alexander, the said Claude Alexander only entering into a recognizance to produce your Memorialist before the said court on the first day of May next ensuing, if called upon, in pursuance of the further proceedings which the said Hugh Perry Keane has determined to take by way of appeal from the aforesaid decision. And your Memorialist is now consequently, from his former state of liberty, reduced once more to slavery, and kept in captivity and

bondage by the said Claude Alexander, although the said Hugh Perry Keane hath served a notice on the said Claude Alexander, that he shall, as soon as he has asserted the rights of your Memorialist, bring an action for false imprisonment against him the said Claude. And for further information of all and every of the above particulars, your Memorialist hath hereunto annexed certified copies of the said several proceedings, together with the affidavits of the aforesaid James Wilson, William Glenn, Esqrs., and William Hinds; duly attested according to the law and custom of the said colony, in proof of all and every the circumstances herein set forth, as, by reference to such annexed certificates, will fully and at large appear.

Your Memorialist, therefore, humbly prays that the honourable President and Directors of your benevolent Society, will be pleased to take his helpless and distressful case into your compassionate consideration. And inasmuch as he is advised, that there is no remedy open to him in conformity to the laws and institutions of this island, by any appeal from hence to any court of superior jurisdiction or authority in Great Britain; but that, from the new and extraordinary circumstances of his case, his only hope of redress will depend on the interference and humanity of your wise, merciful, and protecting institution, and the measures you may think proper to adopt on his behalf for recovering his liberty; he most humbly prays that you will extend your commiseration and protection towards him, and adopt such measures as to your wisdom shall seem most proper and effectual for rescuing him from an ignominious and oppressive state of slavery, and restoring him to the blessings of freedom and the rights of a British subject.

And your Memorialist shall ever pray, &c. &c. &c.

The facts of the above case are fully substantiated by copies of affidavits, and other documents which accompany it; and it must be admitted to be a case of great oppression, there being no reasonable doubt that the party is entitled to his freedom. The property of the master was fully divested

by the Spanish capture and condemnation; nor would any man have attempted under such circumstances, and against such evidence, to reclaim a ship, a bale of cotton, or any other commodity. The unfortunate negro slave is often, by the rights of war in the West Indies, consigned to a new master, and separated for ever from his wife, children, parents, and native settlement. It is hard indeed, if, after such sufferings, and earning his freedom, as in this instance, by good conduct, and by the favour of the master to whom he has been transferred, he is to forfeit it by returning to a *British* colony.

W.

Translation of the Royal Ordinance or Cedula, for the Government and Protection of Slaves, in the Spanish Colonies.

"PROCLAMATION.

"IN the code and other collection of laws published in this kingdom; in the abridgement of the statutes concerning the Indies; in the general and particular orders communicated to my dominions in America since the discovery of it; and in the ordinances, which, being examined by my council of the Indies, have merited my royal approbation, the system of making slaves useful has been established, observed, and constantly followed, and every thing necessary decreed, with respect to the education, treatment, and occupation which their masters are obliged to give them, agreeable to the principles and rules that religion, humanity, and the good of the state dictate, consistent with slavery and the public tranquillity; nevertheless, as it is not an easy matter for all my subjects in America, who keep slaves, to be sufficiently instructed

in all the laws of the said collection, and much less in the general and particular orders and ordinances approved of for different provinces; and considering that, on this account, notwithstanding what has been decreed by my august predecessors with respect to the education, treatment, and occupation of slaves, some abuses have been introduced by their masters and the stewards, which are not at all comformable, but, on the contrary, opposed to the system of the legislation, and to the general and particular orders decreed on the subject. Therefore, in order to remedy such abuses, and having in consideration, that, in consequence of the liberty granted to my subjects by my royal order of the 28th of last February, for carrying on the Slave Trade, the number of slaves will be considerably augmented in America; and having a due attention to this class of individuals in the mean time that the general code of laws, which is forming for the dominions of America, is established, and that they are published; I have resolved, that, for the present, the following instruction shall be punctually observed by all the masters and possessors of slaves in my said dominions.

"*Chapter* 1.—*Education.*

"Every one who has slaves, of whatever class and condition he may be, is obliged to instruct them in the principles of the Roman Catholic religion, and in the necessary truths, in order that they may be baptized within the year of their residence in my dominions; taking care to explain to them the Christian doctrine every holyday, on which they shall not be obliged nor permitted to work, neither for themselves nor for their masters, excepting at the time of the crop, when it is customary to grant them liberty to work on holydays. On those and other days, when they are obliged to hear mass, the owners of the estate shall be at the expense of maintaining a priest to say mass to them, and to explain to them the Christian doctrine, as likewise to administer the Holy Sacraments, not only on such days when he is obliged to do it, but likewise whenever he is wanted; taking care that every day, as soon as their work is finished, they say the

rosary in the presence of the master or of the steward, with the greatest composure and devotion.

"*Chapter 2.—Food and Clothes.*

"It being manifest that the masters of slaves are under the obligation of feeding and clothing them, as likewise their wives and children, whether these be of the same condition or free, until they can earn their own bread, which it is presumed they are able to do when the females arrive at the age of twelve, and the males at that of fourteen; and not being able to give any fixed rule, with respect to the quantity and quality of the food and clothes which are to be given them, on account of the difference of climates, constitution, and other particular causes; it is ordered, that with respect to those matters, the justices of the districts in which the estates are situated, with the approbation of the magistrates, and syndic or recorder, as protector of the slaves, shall fix upon and determine the quantity and quality of the food and clothes which are daily to be given them, according to their ages and sexes, and conformable to the custom of the country, and like those which are commonly given to day-labourers; and linen, the same as the work people, who are free, have. Which determination, after having been approved of by the audience of the district, shall be fixed upon the door of the town-house, and of the churches of every place, and of the oratories or hermitages of the estates, that every one may know it, and that no one may plead ignorance.

"*Chapter 3.—Occupation of Slaves.*

"The first and principal occupation of slaves must be agriculture, and not those labours that require a sedentary life; and thus, in order that their masters and the state may be benefited by their work, and that they may perform it as they ought to do, the justices of towns and villages, in the same form as has been mentioned in the before-going chapter, shall regulate the work to be done in the course of the day, and they shall have two hours to themselves, to be employed

in manufactures or other occupations, for their own advantage; neither the masters nor their stewards can oblige those slaves to work who are sixty years old, or younger than seventeen; nor employ the women slaves in any business which is not conformable to their sex, or in which they must be with the males; and the said masters shall contribute two dollars every year for their domestic service, as it is ordered in the 8th chapter of the Royal Order, published on the 28th of last February.

"*Chapter 4.—Diversions.*

"On holydays, when masters cannot oblige nor permit their slaves to work, after they have heard mass and the Christian doctrine explained to them, the said masters or their stewards shall allow the slaves to divert themselves innocently in their presence; but they shall not allow them to be amongst those of the other estates, nor even with the females, hindering them from excess in drinking, and taking care that their diversions are ended before prayer time.

"*Chapter 5.---Habitations and Infirmary.*

"All masters of slaves must give them habitations, distant those of the men from those of the women, if they are not married; and they must be commodious and sufficient to defend them from the inclemencies of the weather, with beds, blankets, and every thing necessary. Each man shall have his own bed, and there shall be no more than two in a room; another habitation, separated from the rest, which must be warm and commodious, shall be destined for the sick, who must be assisted with every thing necessary by their masters; and in case that the latter, on account of not having room enough, or being near some town, do wish to send them to the hospital, they shall contribute a daily sum, which shall be determined by the justices, for their assistance, in the manner and form mentioned in the 2d chapter; and if any of them should die, it is the master's obligation to pay the charges of the funeral.

" *Chapter* 6.—*Old Men, and those who are constantly ill.*

" Slaves who, on account of old age or illness, are not able to work, as likewise children of either of the two sexes, must be maintained by their masters; and these latter cannot give them their liberty in order to get rid of them, except by giving them a sufficient stock, which must be approved of by the justices and syndic, to maintain them without any other assistance.

" *Chapter* 7.—*Marriages of Slaves.*

" The masters of slaves must not allow the unlawful intercourse of the two sexes, but must encourage matrimony. Neither must he hinder them from marrying with slaves of other masters; in which case, if the estates are distant from one another, so that the new-married couple cannot fulfil the object of marriage, the wife shall follow her husband, whose master shall buy her at a fair valuation, set upon her by skilful men, who shall be nominated by the two parties; and in case of disagreement, a third shall be appointed by the justice to fix a price. If the master of the husband does not agree to the purchase, the master of the wife shall have the same faculty.

" *Chapter* 8.—*Obligations and Punishment of Slaves.*

" As masters of slaves are obliged to maintain them, to educate and to employ them in useful work proportioned to their strength, age and sex, without forsaking their children and those who are old and sickly; so, on the other hand, there is an obligation on slaves to obey and respect their masters and the stewards, to perform the work which is given them to do, conformable to their strength, and to venerate them as heads of the family. Thus he who will not fulfil any of those obligations must be punished, either by the master of the estate or by his steward, according to the nature of his offence, with prison, chains, or lashes, which must not exceed the number of twenty-five, and those must be given

them in such a manner as not to cause any contusion or effusion of blood; which punishments cannot be imposed on slaves but by their masters or the stewards.

"*Chapter 9.—Of the Imposition of greater Punishments.*

"When slaves commit crimes against their masters, mistresses, the children, stewards, or any other person, which require greater punishments than those mentioned in the before-going chapter, the master, his steward, or any one else who was present when the offence was committed, shall secure the delinquent, and inform the justice of it, that in the audience of the slave's master and of the attorney who defends the cause of the former, a law-suit may be commenced against him, and a punishment imposed upon him according to the importance and circumstances of the offence; observing in every thing what is ordered by the laws with respect to the causes of other delinquents in general. And if the slave be sentenced to pay one-third of the charges of the law-suit, his master shall be responsible for it, besides the corporal punishment, which, according to the importance of the crime, the delinquent shall suffer, after having been approved of by the audience of the district, whether it be death or mutilation of members.

"*Chapter 10.—Defects or Excess of their Masters and their Stewards.*

"The master, or his steward, who does not fulfil what is ordered in the before-going chapters, with respect to the education, aliments, clothes, diversions, habitations, &c. of slaves, or who should forsake their children, and those that are old and sickly, shall be fined fifty dollars for the first time, one hundred for the second, and two hundred for the third; and those fines shall be paid by the master even in the case that the fault had been committed by his steward only, if the latter were not able to pay it; one-third of which belongs to the informer, another to the judge, and the other is

to be put into the fine-chest, which will be treated of afterwards: and in case the before-mentioned fines should not produce the desired effect, and they should commit the same fault again, other greater punishments shall be inflicted upon them, as disobedient to my royal orders; and as soon as I am informed of their disobedience, I shall take my measures accordingly. When their masters or their stewards are guilty of excess in punishing the slaves, causing them contusion, effusion of blood, or mutilation of members, besides paying the before-mentioned fines, they shall be prosecuted as criminals, and have a punishment inflicted upon them according to the crime which they had committed, and the slave shall be confiscated and sold to another master, if he is able to work, putting the amount of him into the fine-chest; and if he cannot be sold on account of being unable to work, he shall not be restored to his master, who shall be obliged to allow him a daily sum, which shall be fixed upon by the justice, for his maintenance and clothes during the remainder of his life, paying it every three months in advance.

"*Chapter* 11.—*Of those who injure Slaves.*

"As masters and stewards can alone chastise slaves with that moderation which is required, no other person, who is not their master, or his steward, shall injure, chastise, wound or kill them, without incurring the punishment enacted by the laws against those who commit the like excesses towards free people; and the master of the slave who has been injured, chastised, or killed, shall commence a lawsuit against the criminal, and the attorney, as protector of slaves, shall defend his cause.

"*Chapter* 12.—*List of Slaves.*

"The masters of slaves shall be obliged every year to deliver in to the justice of the town or village, in the district of which their estates are situated, a list, signed and sworn to by them, of all the slaves which they have, with distinction of sexes and ages, in order that the notary of the town-house

may take account of them in a separate book, which is to be kept for this purpose at the said town-house, together with the list presented by the master, who, whenever any of his slaves die or absent themselves from his estate, must inform the justice of it, within the term of three days, that by order of the attorney-general it may be noted in the book, in order to avoid all suspicion of having been killed; and if the master does not fulfil this, he shall be obliged fully to prove either the absence of the slave or his natural death, for, on the contrary, a law-suit will be commenced against him.

"*Chapter* 13.—*Method of investigating the Excesses of Masters or Stewards.*

"The distance of some estates from the towns; the inconvenience which would result from permitting slaves to go out without an order from their master, under the pretext of complaining; and the just regulations of the law, which orders that no fugitive slave shall be assisted, protected, or concealed; require that means be facilitated which are proportioned to all those circumstances, in order that it may be known how they are treated by their masters; and one of those is, that the priests who go to the estates to explain to them the Christian doctrine and to say mass, do obtain information from the said slaves how they are treated by their masters and the stewards, and if every thing be observed which is ordered in the before-going chapters, in order that they may give a secret and reserved notice of it to the attorney-general, and that he may cause it to be investigated, whether the masters or their stewards are wanting in the whole or in part to their respective obligations; and the said priests, who, by reason of their ministry, do give the said secret notice, shall not be answerable for any thing, even supposing that the complaints of the slaves are not just; for this notice is given only to the attorney-general that he may demand from the justice to nominate an individual of the town-house, or another person of approved conduct, who is to investigate the business, and to form the first proceeding,

which he is to deliver in to the justice, who shall pursue the proceedings and determine the cause according to the law, giving information of it to the audience of the district, and admitting of appeals in all such cases as are authorized by the laws.

"Besides those means, it will be necessary that people of good characters and conduct be appointed by the justices and magistrates to visit the estates three times a year, and to make inquiry whether every thing be observed which is ordered in the foregoing chapters, informing the said justices of it, who must apply the remedy; and it is likewise declared to be a popular action, that of informing against a master or his steward for not having fulfilled one or the whole of the said chapters, the name of the informer shall not be made known, and he shall have the part of the fine which he is entitled to, without being responsible in any other case than in that where it is proved that the information is false. And lastly, it is likewise declared, that the justices and attorney-general, as protectors of slaves, will be made answerable for any neglect of theirs in not having made use of the necessary means to have my royal resolutions put into execution.

"*Chapter* 14.—*Chest of Fines.*

"In the towns and villages where the before-mentioned regulations are to be formed, and where the courts of justice are, a chest with three keys shall be made and kept in the town-house; one of which keys shall be delivered to the justice of the peace, another to the governor, and the third to the attorney-general, in order to keep in the said chest the produce of the fines which are to be laid on those who do not fulfil my royal orders; and the said produce shall be employed in the necessary means of making them to be observed, neither can there be a single maravedi taken out of it for any other purpose, without an order signed by the three who keep the keys, expressing its destination, and they shall remain responsible, and under the obligation of restoring what has been spent or employed to other purposes, for fear, that for

those reasons, or for others, their accounts, which must be remitted every year to the intendant of the province, together with the attestation of the produce of fines, may not be approved of by him.

"In order that all the rules prescribed in the beforegoing chapters may be fulfilled, I annul every law, royal order, and custom, which are opposed to them; and I command my supreme council of the Indies, viceroys, presidents, audiences, governors, intendants, justices, ministers, &c. that they fulfil and cause to be executed, whatever is decreed in this my royal order, for this is my will.

"Published at Aranjuez, the 31st May, 1789."

X.

Extract of a Letter from a Gentleman high in Office on the Coast of Africa, dated Senegal, 6th July, 1810.

"I HAVE had the honour to receive your very obliging letter of the 27th April, and have to return you my sincere thanks for the very handsome and friendly manner you have been pleased to address me; and I beg to assure you that I feel infinite gratification in having obtained the favourable consideration you entertain of my exertions towards carrying into effect the great work of African civilization. To promote this desirable measure, my endeavours shall be unremitting. In support of this important object, I have invariably checked every instance of slave dealing which has come to my knowledge, and have had the peculiar hap-

piness, in some instances, of restoring to the disconsolate parent the supposed lost child.

"This pleasing duty has been attended with peculiar gratification to myself, not only in the instances of happiness I have been able to bestow on the distressed parent, but also in the universal joy and satisfaction displayed by old and young far and near. Whenever I visit the main land, I never fail to be saluted by its inhabitants with every mark of sincere gratitude; which more fully to demonstrate, the chiefs of all the villages in my neighbourhood have waited upon me, to acknowledge their thankfulness for the protection the British government affords to their persons. These circumstances cannot fail to yield the happiest results, and to be the means of creating considerable interest in our favour amongst the oppressed beings of this neglected country.

"The uncertainty of our retaining the settlements of Senegal and Goree renders a reform of sentiments in the inhabitants, with regard to the Slave Trade, little to be expected: they have from early age considered it as a rightful occupation, and the abundant harvest they gathered in this cruel and barbarous traffic is too fresh in their memories to be easily effaced, to a repetition of which they look forward with considerable anxiety.

"If, at the conclusion of the war, circumstances should admit of these settlements being retained by Great Britain, it would open a wide and favourable prospect of success to the views of the wellwishers of Africa. The inhabitants, once convinced that they had no chance of renewing their former commerce, would turn their minds to the other branches of emolument, which this river affords in an abundant degree. The gum trade with the Moors is a source of considerable gain, and, if steadily pursued, would be still more productive; this is a grand ground-work to begin upon, and which a little encouragement in England would highly augment. The voyage to Galam is another source of wealth, not only in gold and ivory, but also in the immense quantities of corn which can be procured in the countries through which the

Senegal winds. Galam has not been visited for many years, owing to the misunderstanding which existed between the French government and the native princes, added to the want of merchandize to enable adventurers to visit the upper parts of the river. Both of these obstacles are now removed, as I have established a friendly intercourse with Alimami, the chief of a powerful territory, which extends a hundred leagues on the left bank of the river, and whose enmity was so injurious to the settlement under the French government. Vessels from this settlement have traded safely and successfully with his dominions, and the traders here are only waiting for the rains, and an increase of water in the river, to proceed still farther up, and renew their former advantageous connection with Galam. I hope, therefore, that this will soon form a valuable part of the commerce of the settlement, and open a route for the introduction of British produce and manufactures into the interior. From this prince I have received flattering assurances of regard for repressing the Slave Trade: he, being a Mohammedan, will not permit it to be carried on by his people. It has fallen to my lot to return to his subjects two of their children who had been stolen by Arzuna Moors (the robber tribe of the Tartar nation). This act has been acknowledged by him in a most satisfactory manner.

"It appears to me that Senegal is a most appropriate spot to put into execution the humane wishes of the friends of Africans: the climate is not so alarming as is generally imagined: there are only four months in the year which are to be dreaded, and those may be passed through with tolerable safety, provided a regular and abstemious mode of living is pursued, and the heat of the sun during the day be avoided; added to which, comfortable accommodation can easily be procured, as bricks and lime are at a moderate price."

"But to return to the object of your inquiry:—the inhabitants in the neighbourhood of this settlement are a fine race of people: they are considered the finest negroes on the coast. They are well inclined towards Europeans, and perfect security

exists to travellers who journey in their country, through which they may pass unarmed.

"The journey by land to Goree, for which persons proceed to Dakar, the land nearest that island, is performed daily, and equal facility is found in other directions: amongst the inhabitants travellers experience hospitality and kind behaviour. I am perfectly convinced, if these settlements were to become entirely British, it would add materially towards the total abolition of the Slave Trade. But as long as the inhabitants of these settlements, and those on the main land, entertain any idea of a return of the traffic, no great exertion can be expected; the former, from the hope of reaping their customary profit; the latter, from the insecurity of their situation, which will become very precarious whenever the French regain this possession.

"The wars, which formerly were frequent, and always attended by considerable numbers being taken and sold to traders, are now very rare; and when they occur, the parties content themselves with pillaging cattle and a few captives, who are kept by the victors until they are redeemed by the relatives, for whom they give bullocks, corn, tobacco, or such commodities as they can procure.

"Even among the Moors, kidnapping is almost extinct: a few instances occurred lately, which was occasioned by some persons residing here pressing them to pay some debts, which they had contracted before the English took possession of the settlement: all the children thus taken have been recovered and restored to their parents.

"To use an old adage, 'if there were no receivers, there would be no thieves;' which is perfectly applicable to the case with regard to the Slave Trade in this part of Africa. The slavery amongst themselves is merely nominal: the master and servant are nearly equal: they work together, eat and drink out of the same bowl, and sleep under the same roof."

"I beg leave to say, that I think a few Moravian missionaries would be of infinite service in each of these settlements; in the first instance, to give some instruction to the numer-

ous population, and the visitors from the main land. If they arrive during my residence in this country, you may depend on their having my support and protection."

Extract of a Letter from the same Gentleman, dated Senegal, 11th December, 1810.

"I had the pleasure to acknowledge, on the 1st of November, by the schooner Hope, the receipt of your obliging letter of the 17th September, and communicated to you that it was necessary for me to go to Goree, to endeavour to overcome some difficulties which had arisen relative to the four vessels detained at that island, on the suspicion of being American property under Spanish colours, fitted out for the Slave Trade.

"My former letters will have acquainted you, that many vessels of this description are on the coast; and the intelligence you have received from leeward will also have informed you of the still greater number in that quarter. I hope some measures have been decided upon, to stop their progress, *in undoing all the good which would have resulted from the honourable exertions and sacrifices of the British nation.*

"I beg to call your attention to the facility with which vessels are fitted out in the port of Charlestown. I understand the utmost activity is going on in that port, in equipping vessels, fully manned and armed. All the papers of vessels from thence are vouched by a person who calls himself Carlos Mulvey, Spanish consul. At Teneriffe, the American consul, Mr. Armstrong, gives every facility to the covering American property, in the name of Mr. Thomas Armstrong, and Mr. Madden. I have been credibly informed, that a set of papers are furnished for a thousand dollars, and that it is notorious to every merchant in Teneriffe. It would afford me considerable satisfaction to hear of some strong measures being taken to counteract this illegal conduct.

"I doubt not, Sir, before this time, that the African Institution has been able to induce Government and the Legislature to take some active and decided steps in favour of the African cause; *for until the traffic of their persons is stopped, it is in vain to hope to urge them to industry or civilization, where the safety of person and property is so uncertain.*"

Extract of a Letter from the same Gentleman, dated Senegal, 23d Feb. 1811.

"The schooner George returned from Sierra Leone on the 30th of December, with intelligence that the brig Erin, of Norfolk, alias Catalina; the Mary Ann, of Charlestown, alias Santa Barbara; and the Snake in the Grass, alias Alrevida, were released by the Vice-Admiralty Court, upon paying costs of suit. The brig Pert, and ship Maria Dolores, were condemned as forfeited to his Majesty. The Erin went to the Gambia, and I am informed has taken away two hundred and fifty unhappy beings. The other two vessels that were liberated are gone to leeward. When I was in Goree, I was induced to liberate a schooner under Spanish colours, but with an American Spanish supercargo on board. She has taken away from the Gambia two hundred and thirty slaves. Two other Americans, under Spanish colours, have, since November, left the Gambia with two hundred and fifty slaves.

"In all probability other vessels will be equally successful, as, unfortunately, the wars excited in the upper part of that river afford the means of furnishing them with slaves in abundance.

"I am convinced you will join with me in lamenting the insufficiency of my authority to check this dreadful evil. I wait with considerable impatience for your next letters, which I hope will inform me of something having been done to check the alarming increase of slave-dealing on this part of the coast."

Y.

List of Growing Plants transmitted to the African Institution by Dr. Roxburgh, of Calcutta.

1. TWO Grafted *Mangoe*—a very delicious sort.
2. Four *Leetchee*, the famous well-known China fruit.
3. Eight *Louquat*, MESPILUS *japomica Linn.*—a good fruit.
4. Two EUGENIA *Malaccensis*—fruit large, and tolerably good.
5. Four SAGUERUS *Rumphi*, R.—a species of the *Sago palm*, which also yields a fibrous web, very fit for cables and other large cordage.
6. One AQUILLANIA *Agallocha*, R.—the real *Aloe-wood* tree.
7. Two LUTI-AM—an undescribed plant. The fruit eat by the natives of *India*.
8. Two CARISSA *Carandes*—red variety, from China.
9. Carissa Carandes—the common kind. Both make excellent fences, and the fruit in very general use for jellies.
10. Seven CAJUPUTI OIL tree.
11. One RATAN—a large kind, from Pegu.
12. One BAMBOO. This sort bears a fruit as large as a middling-sized pear; and the bamboo itself serviceable as the other sorts.
13. Two ASCLEPIAS *tinctoria*, R. Its leaves yield indigo by the hot-water process.
14. Four TEAK. The timber well known.
15. Two or three URTICA *tenacissima*, R. The bark abounds in very strong, fine, flaxen fibres.

List of Seeds transmitted the same time.

The SULTANEE, or yellow *Coconut.*
ARECA *Catechu.*
BORASSUS *Flabelliformis.*

1. *Teak.*
2. DALBERGIA *Sissoo.*
3. CROTALARIA *juncea.*
4. CORCORUS *capsularis,* or *Paat.*
5. AESCHYNOMENE *cannabina,* or *Duncha.*
6. HIBISCUS *strictus.*
7. ABROMA *augusta.*
8. HIBISCUS *cannabinus.*
9. TERMINALIA *chebula*—an useful timber tree; *Myrobalans* of our M. M.
10. ARECA *catechu*—the betle nut.
11. ALEURITES *triloba,* or Indian *Akhrowt.*
12. SEMICARPUS *Anacardium,* or *marking nut.*
13. MIMOSA *elata*—a very large tree of quick growth: the timber excellent, being hard, strong, and durable.
14. MIMOSA *stipulata*—an immense, very quick-growing timber tree.
15. LAGERSTROEMIA *Reginæ*—a beautiful timber tree. In *Pegu* the wood is used for knees, &c. crooked timbers in ships.
16. CASSIA *sumatrana*—a most beautiful, quick-growing timber tree.
17. ADENANTHERA *panonina*—a timber tree: the wood a deep red, and very hard.
18. CASSIA *bacilus* of *Gærtner.*
19. CHRYSOPHYLLUM *acuminatum*—a fruit tree.
20. A very large *Palm,* a new species of CORYPHA.
21. Country *Cucumber.*
22. CUCURBITA *lagenaria.*
23. CUCURBITA *pepo.*
24. CUCUMIS *Mamordica.*

25. East India *Water-melon.*
26. Luffa *acutangula.*
27. Solanum *Melongena.*
28. Large Bengal *Radish.*
29. Anethum *sawa.* The seed an ingredient in curry powder: is cultivated during the cool season.
30. Hibiscus *sativus*, or *Okra*.
31. Amaranthus *gangeticus.* } Both much cultivated by the
32. Amaranthus *palygamus.* } Hindoos during the rains, for their stews, curries, &c.
33. Trigonella *Fœnum græcum.* Cultivated during the cool season: the seed an ingredient in curry-powder, and the stalks and leaves a pot-herb.
34. Trigonella *corniculata.* Cultivated during the cool season for the green plant, which the natives eat.
35. A species of Chenopodium. Cultivated during the cool season as a pot-herb.
36 and 37. Two species of *Mustard* extensively cultivated during the cool season (from October to February inclusive). From the seeds the natives express their most common and cheapest oil for eating, and for burning: and the green herb is very generally eat in their curries, &c.
38. White or *opium Poppy.*
39. Carpopogon *niveum.* } Hindoo *kidney-beans*, they may
40. Dolichos *tetragonolobus.* } be called, as they are used in
41. Dolichos *Lablab.* } the same way.
42. *Bengal Beet.* Cultivated between September and May, the dry season.
43. Cucurbita *melopepo.*
44. Dolichos *gladiatus.* An excellent substitute for kidney beans.
45. Melaleuca *Cajuputi*, before called *M. Leucadendron.*

Cultivation of the Duncha Plant (AESCHYNOMENE *cannabina. Kon. in Retz. obs.* 5. 26. CORONILLA *cannabina. Linn. sp. pl. ed. Willd.* 3. 1148.)

The soil generally employed for this plant about Calcutta is wet, and considerably lower than what is necessary for *Paat* (CORCHORUS) and *Sunn* (CROTALARIA *juncea* *). The preparation of the ground need not be so much attended to, as the plant is hardy, and the growth so rapid as to destroy or keep down weeds of all kinds very completely. This, together with the crop being considered a meliorating one renders it advantageous, notwithstanding the cheapness of the material. The time of sowing is when the soil has been moistened with the showers which fall during our storms, called *North-westers*, in May, corresponding with the *Tornados*, on the west coast of *Africa*. About 15 seers (30 pounds weight) of seed to the acre, is generally allowed; and less attention is paid to the weeding than is necessary for *Paat*. In September and October, the crop is ready to cut though the fibre does not suffer if left standing till the seed is ripe, in November. The steeping, and cleaning the fibre, are processes exactly similar to those already described for *Jute* and *Sunn*.

The general produce of an acre, runs from five hundred to one thousand pounds weight of ill-cleaned fibre. Current price, somewhat less than *Jute*. Expense of cultivation, including land rent, about nine rupees.

This is deemed the coarsest, though not least durable, of our Bengal substitutes for *Hemp*. It is reckoned to be more durable in the water, or for purposes where it is often wet, than either *Sunn* (CROTALARIA *juncea*,) or *Jute* (CORCHORUS *olitonius*, and *capsularis*), and is therefore universally employed for the drag-ropes, and other cordage about fishing nets. The nets themselves are made of *Sunn-twine*, well tanned with the bark of a species of RIZOPHORA.

* See the method of cultivating those plants, in the Fourth Report of the African Institution, and in the Transactions of the Society of Arts, vols. 22 and 24.

Cultivation of the HIBISCUS *cannabinus Linn.*; ABROMA *augusta Linn. sp. pl. ed. Willd.* 3. 1724; and HIBISCUS *strictus Roxb.*

These plants require a soil similar to that which is employed for *Paat*, viz. rich, rather high, and friable. The preparation of the land, and seed time, are also exactly the same as for *Paat*. This corresponds very exactly with the latter part of the Tornado season on the west coast of Africa, and immediately preceding the periodical rains. If the ground is then in good tilth, and the seed sown while it is moist with the rain of one of the Tornados, there is little doubt of complete success. The crop is cut before the seed is ripe, viz. HIBISCUS *cannabinus* in August and September, and *strictus* in October and November, if wanted of rather a fine quality; but if strength only is the object, it is left until the seed is ripe; then cut, steeped, &c. as for *Sunn* and *Jute*. But as a stock of seed will be the first object, it will therefore be necessary to sow much thinner than when for the fibre only; as in that case the fewer branches the better; whereas when seed is wanted, it is quite the reverse. ABROMA *augusta* is perennial, and will yield two or three, or even four, crops, or cuttings yearly; and on that account the plants must have more room; as the same root throws out many shoots after the several cuttings.

HIBISCUS *cannabinus* and *strictus*, are both annuals. This year (1810), a piece of ground, in the Botanic Garden at *Calcutta*, measuring two biggahs, equal to two-thirds of an acre, was sown with 20 pounds of seed in May. The crop was cut in November, when the seed vessels were full grown, but not ripe. The weather being rather cool at this season, rendered eight and ten days' steeping necessary to make the bark separate freely from the stalks. The produce of clean fibre weighed thirteen maund, equal to 1040 lbs. avoirdupois.

For the strength, and some other particulars relative to these materials, see Transactions of the Society of Arts, vols. 22 and 24.

Directions for Rearing the Teak and Sissoo Trees.

The timber of this tree is, in India, what *oak* is in England; it is, however, unnecessary to enlarge on their comparative value, because oak will not grow in India. Our attention ought therefore to be confined to *Teak* alone, not only as being by far the best wood we have in this country for ship-building, but also for the house-carpenter, and almost every other work, where strong, durable, easily wrought, light wood is required. The cultivation of so valuable a tree, where nature has not bestowed it, must therefore be obvious to every one, particularly in Bengal, where it grows well, and the demand so great.

Government, sensible of what is here stated, have long given every possible encouragement for an extensive propagation. But to render it still more general, the native landholders must be made sensible of the advantages they may expect to derive from large plantations thereof.

The growth of the tree, while young, is rapid, and at all ages the wood (from various experiments) appears excellent. Some trees in the Honourable Company's Botanic Garden, brought from the Rajahmundry Circar in 1787, are now, 1804, from three to upwards of four feet in girt, at three and a half feet above ground, and high in proportion. The largest of these trees, measured at three feet and a half above the ground, was in February, 1796, forty-two inches in circumference. The same tree is now, February 1804, fifty-two inches in circumference at the same place*, which gives an annual increase of one inch and a quarter. However, while the trees are younger, or in a more favourable soil than where this tree stands, their yearly growth is from two to three inches, which is fully double the increase of *oak* in England.

* The same tree measured, in October 1807, fifty-five inches in circumference—an increase of only one inch for each of the three last years.

These plants were about twelve months old when sent from the Coast, so that their present age is about seventeen years. A tree promising so much advantage, in so short a space, compared to what the *oak* requires in England, to become serviceable in the marine yard, makes it highly worthy of every attention and encouragement. A few observations on rearing the plants from the seed seems necessary, as I have often known seeds from the same tree succeed with one person and totally fail with another.

The *nut* in which the seeds are lodged is exceeding hard, contains four cells; in each is lodged a single small seed. It has been ascertained that they perfectly retain their vegetating power in the ground, even as far as eighteen months; however, it is advisable to sow them about the beginning of the first periodical rains (say May in Bengal) after they are taken ripe from the tree, in November or December. If sown about this period, or rather before than after, in well shaded beds, about an inch asunder, and covered with about a quarter of an inch of earth, with a little rotten straw, or grass spread over the earth, to keep the beds in an uniform state of humidity, by gentle waterings, should the weather prove dry; most of the *nuts* will be found to produce from one to four plants, in from four to eight weeks. However, it sometimes happens, that many will remain in the ground until the commencement of the second rains, nay, even of the third, from the time they were sown; but this is rare, yet it will be advisable to sow the seed on a spot that can be spared, at least until the rains of the second season are well advanced; by not attending to this circumstance, many have thought the seed bad, consequently caused the ground to be dug up for other purposes.

The plants, when they first make their appearance, are very small, scarce so large as a *cabbage* plant when it first springs from the earth; their growth is, however, rapid. When they are about one or two inches high, they ought to be transplanted into other beds, at the distance of about six inches from each other, there to remain until the be-

ginning (January or February) of the following year, when they are to be planted out where they are to remain; or they may, when from two to four inches high, be planted out at once to where they are to grow; and it is not perfectly clear, but by so doing, they succeed better; as in taking up plants of any considerable size, say from one to two or more feet high, the roots are very apt to be injured, particularly the *tap*-root, which retards their growth much, nay often kills them.

About Calcutta, they thrive luxuriantly in most places where they have been tried, and any tolerable degree of care taken of them, so that the only observations that seem necessary to be made on this head, are to avoid sowing the seed, or planting on such places as are low or subject to be inundated; to keep them clear of weeds, and sparingly watered during dry weather, for the first year only. In a good soil, not much overrun with that coarse, white flowered grass, called by the natives *Woola* (SACCHARUM *cylindricum Linn.*) they will scarce require any care whatever, after the first six months from the time of being planted out where they are to stand. They will then be about eighteen months old, supposing them to have been transplanted twice; and in that time they will, in general, be from five to ten feet high, according as the soil is favourable, and out of all danger except from *north-westers (Tornados)*.

With respect to the distance at which the plants ought to stand in plantations, every one's judgment can direct.

Sissoo (or DALBERGIA *Sissoo*) seed is sown at the same season and in the same manner, and require much less care than *Teak*, as the tree is very hardy, and grows freely in almost every soil, and situation. The largest of those trees, in the Botanic Garden, are about twenty-four years old, with trunks nine feet in circumference, four feet above ground and their total height about one hundred feet. The timber of this tree is very generally used, for all the knees, or crooked timbers, in ships built at Calcutta.

Z.

IN addition to the cases of the Amedie and Fortuna inserted in the body of the Report, the following papers have been extensively circulated in the Navy.

" PORTUGUESE SLAVE TRADE.

" *Copy of the Tenth Article of the Treaty of Friendship and Alliance between* HIS BRITANNIC MAJESTY *and His Royal Highness* THE PRINCE REGENT OF PORTUGAL, *signed at Rio de Janeiro the 19th of February,* 1810; *and published by authority.*

" ' His Royal Highness the Prince Regent of Portugal, being fully convinced of the injustice and impolicy of the Slave Trade, and of the great disadvantages which arise from the necessity of introducing and continually renewing a foreign and factitious population for the purpose of labour and industry within his South American dominions, has resolved to co-operate with His Britannic Majesty in the cause of humanity and justice, by adopting the most efficacious means for bringing about a gradual Abolition of the Slave Trade throughout the whole of his dominions. And actuated by this principle, His Royal Highness the Prince Regent of Portugal engages that his subjects shall not be permitted to carry on the Slave Trade on any part of the Coast of Africa, not actually belonging to His Royal Highness's dominions, in which that trade has been discontinued and abandoned by the Powers and States of Europe, which formerly traded there; reserving, however, to his own subjects the right of

purchasing and trading in slaves within the African dominions of the Crown of Portugal. It is, however, to be distinctly understood, that the stipulations of the present article are not to be considered as invalidating or otherwise affecting the rights of the Crown of Portugal to the territories of Cabinda and Molembo (which rights have formerly been questioned by the Government of France), nor as limiting or restraining the commerce of Ajuda and other ports in Africa (situated upon the coast commonly called in the Portuguese language the *Costa de Mina*), belonging to or claimed by the Crown of Portugal: His Royal Highness the Prince Regent of Portugal being resolved not to resign nor forego his just and legitimate pretensions thereto, nor the rights of his subjects to trade with those places, exactly in the same manner as they have hitherto done.'

"*Extract from the Fifth Article of the Treaty of Amity, Commerce, and Navigation, between the above contracting Parties; signed as above.*

"'In order to avoid any differences or misunderstanding with respect to the regulations which may respectively constitute a British or Portuguese vessel, the high contracting parties agree in declaring, that all vessels built in the dominions of his Britannic Majesty, and owned, navigated and registered according to the laws of Great Britain, shall be considered as British vessels. And that all ships or vessels built in the countries belonging to his Royal Highness the Prince Regent of Portugal, or in any of them: or ships taken by any of the ships or vessels of war belonging to the Portuguese Government, or any of the inhabitants of the dominions of his Royal Highness the Prince Regent of Portugal, having commissions or letters of marque and reprisal from the Government of Portugal, and condemned as lawful prize in any court of admiralty of the said Portuguese Government, and owned by the subjects of his

Royal Highness the Prince Regent of Portugal, or any of them, and whereof the master and three-fourths of the mariners, at least, are subjects of his Royal Highness the Prince Regent of Portugal: shall be considered as Portuguese vessels.'

"From these extracts, it appears, that no Portuguese Slave Trade is lawful which is carried on at any part of the coast of Africa, not actually under the dominion of the Crown of Portugal; and that therefore all vessels trading contrary to this stipulation are liable to seizure. It further appears, that to give any vessel a title to the protection of the Portuguese flag in carrying on even this limited traffic in slaves, it is necessary that she should either be built in the dominions of Portugal, or condemned as prize in a Portugueze court of admiralty; and that in either of these cases she should be owned by a Portuguese subject or subjects, and that her master and three-fourths of her crew should also be Portuguese subjects.

"CONTRABAND SLAVE TRADE.

"There is a large class of contraband slave ships, consisting of vessels, under foreign flags, fitted out chiefly from London or Liverpool, which, though they may have cleared out for some legal destination, as the Brazils, or Madeira, or Lisbon, are in fact destined to the coast of Africa for slaves, to be carried to some trans-Atlantic settlement. It is to this description of vessels that the Act of 46 Geo. III. c. 52. § 9. applies. Agreeably to the tenor of that important section, if the intent, on the part of those concerned, to trade in slaves, can be verified in any part of the voyage, whether it be in port or in the channel, or in any subsequent stage, either before or after having called at an intermediate port or ports, or even after having taken fresh clearances (provided only the fact of having fitted out from a British port can also be ascertained), the vessel and cargo are good prize.

"There is another still larger class of contraband slave ships, consisting of American vessels, which have assumed a Portuguese or Spanish disguise, and which, if the genuineness of their Portuguese or Spanish character, should be disproved, are equally liable to seizure and condemnation, under the authority of solemn decisions which have taken place in the supreme courts of prize in this country; particularly those in the cases of the Amedie and Fortuna, detailed above.

"The principles on which these decisions proceed appear to be no less applicable to the ships of any other neutral nation, whose laws do not sanction the Slave Trade, than to those belonging to subjects of the United States.

"In all such cases also, it is decreed, that the right of seizure is conferred not merely by the circumstance of a ship having actually traded in slaves, but by the manifestation of an *intention* to trade in slaves.

"'It matters not,' says Sir William Scott, 'in what stage of the employment (viz. the Slave Trade), whether in the inception or the prosecution, or the consummation of it, the vessel is taken: the court must pronounce a sentence of confiscation.'

"What are the precise circumstances which may prove an *intent* to trade in slaves, it may not be easy always to define. The direct testimony of persons on board would of course be decisive. So would testimony arising from letters of instruction to the captain or supercargo, or from other documents found on board. But, independently of these direct and undeniable proofs, there may be many other grounds of strong suspicion, which, though they may not amount to satisfactory proof in the first instance, would nevertheless justify the forcible seizure and examination of papers, and the detention of the ship.

"The grounds of suspicion alluded to are of the following kind, viz.

"1. A quantity of water casks wholly disproportioned to the ordinary consumption of the ship's crew, and which can only be wanting for a living cargo.

"2. A quantity of provisions, as rice or beans, likewise far exceeding the wants of the crew. This, however, is not a necessary criterion, because it happens in many cases that rice, instead of being taken from England, is purchased on the coast, for the purpose of feeding the slaves.

"3. Barricadoes and bulk-heads to confine the slaves, either erected, or prepared with a view to future erection.

"4. Small tubs for messing the slaves, commonly known by the name of Mess Kitts, in the proportion of one for every eight or ten slaves.

"5. Chains and fetters for the slaves: though these, in order to avoid suspicion, may have been shipped under the general name of Ironmongery, and put up in casks till wanted for use.

"6. Main-deck gratings, used almost exclusively on board slave ships. It generally happens, that, to escape detection, these are boarded over at top, so as not to be visible to a person standing on deck; but the fraud may be discovered by holding up a light beneath the deck, as then the gratings will be seen.

"Where several of these circumstances are found to exist, a strong ground of suspicion is furnished—such a ground as would justify the captain of a man of war in pursuing his investigation further. Indeed, were they all to be found united, it is apprehended that there would be no room to hesitate about detaining the vessel.

"In October 1803, a case of this kind occurred in London, in which the above circumstances being found to exist, the vessel was seized; and the intention to trade in slaves was considered as so clearly made out, that the parties who were interested did not choose to stand the issue of a contest, but permitted condemnation of both ship and cargo to take place without any opposition. This vessel, the Commercio de Rio, had a cargo on board for the purchase of from seven to eight hundred slaves, with whom she was to proceed from the coast of Africa to the Havannah.

"Many other cases, both of foreign vessels fitted out from

an English port with intent to trade in slaves, and of American vessels, under Spanish or Portuguese colours, intending to engage in that trade, have been condemned either in the high court of admiralty at home, or in the vice-admiralty courts abroad. The case of the Fortuna is directly in point.

"It may be proper to add, that if it should be discovered, on stopping and examining a ship at sea, that any papers had been destroyed on the approach of the man of war, this would of itself form a sufficient ground of seizure and condemnation."

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*Ditto	ditto	1	1	0
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*Ditto	ditto	2	2	0
George	Sanders, Esq. ditto	8	8	0
*Ditto	ditto	2	2	0
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Thomas	Thompson, Esq. M. P.	31	10	0
T. Perronet	Thompson, Esq.	100	0	0
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Mr. Jacob	Thompson, ditto	1	1	0
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*John	Thornton, Esq.	3	3	0
Mr. E. N.	Thornton	2	12	6
Captain	Thornton	1	1	0
Mr. Joseph P.	Thornton, Scarborough	1	1	0
Mr. A.	Thorpe, York	10	10	0
Rev. J.	Thurlow, Gosfield, Essex	1	1	0
Mr. James	Tindall, Scarborough	5	5	0
*Ditto	ditto	2	2	0

		L.	s.	d.
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Mr. John	Tindall, ditto	8	0	0
*James	Tindall, ditto	2	2	0
*Mrs. Isabella	Tindall, ditto	2	2	0
Mr. William	Tomlinson, Liverpool	1	1	0
James	Towers, Esq. 28, South-street, Grosvenor-square	63	0	0
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John	Travers, Esq. Swithin's-lane	10	10	0
*Samuel	Tregelles, Esq. Falmouth	3	3	0
*Mr. W. B.	Trevelyan	1	1	0
Mr. William	Tuke, York	10	10	0
*Mr. Henry	Tuke, ditto	2	2	0
Mr. Samuel	Tuke, ditto	10	10	0
Mr. W.	Tweedy, Falmouth	1	1	0
*Miss	Tyson	1	1	0
Mrs.	Unwin, Castle Hedingham	10	10	0
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Rt. Hon. N.	Vansittart, 36, Great George-str.	31	10	0
Mrs.	Vansittart	21	0	0
Miss	Vansittart	31	10	0
*Ditto	ditto	3	3	0
Rt. Hon. J. C.	Villiers, 17, North-Audley-street	31	10	0
*Mr. Abraham	Vanneck, Sierra Leone	1	1	0
*Rev. Edw. Tho.	Vaughan, Leicester	1	1	0
*Rev. John	Venn, Clapham	1	1	0
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Rt. Hon. Countess of	Waldegrave	5	5	9
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Thomas	Wagstaff, Esq. Harleston, Norfolk	5	5	0
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*William	Wansey, Esq. 38, Upper Thames-st.	1	1	0
*S. S.	Ward, Esq. 23, Billiter-lane	1	1	0
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*Mr. Thomson	Warren	1	1	0
Nicholas	Waterhouse, Esq. Liverpool	31	10	0
Rev. H. G.	Watkins	10	10	0

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Mrs. Hannah	Whitwell, Liverpool	3	3	0
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Mr. Samuel	Williams, Liverpool	1	0	0
Mr. Richard	Williams, Scarborough	1	1	0
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R. H. (per ditto)	1	1	0
P. T. (per ditto)	1	1	0
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Ditto	20	0	0
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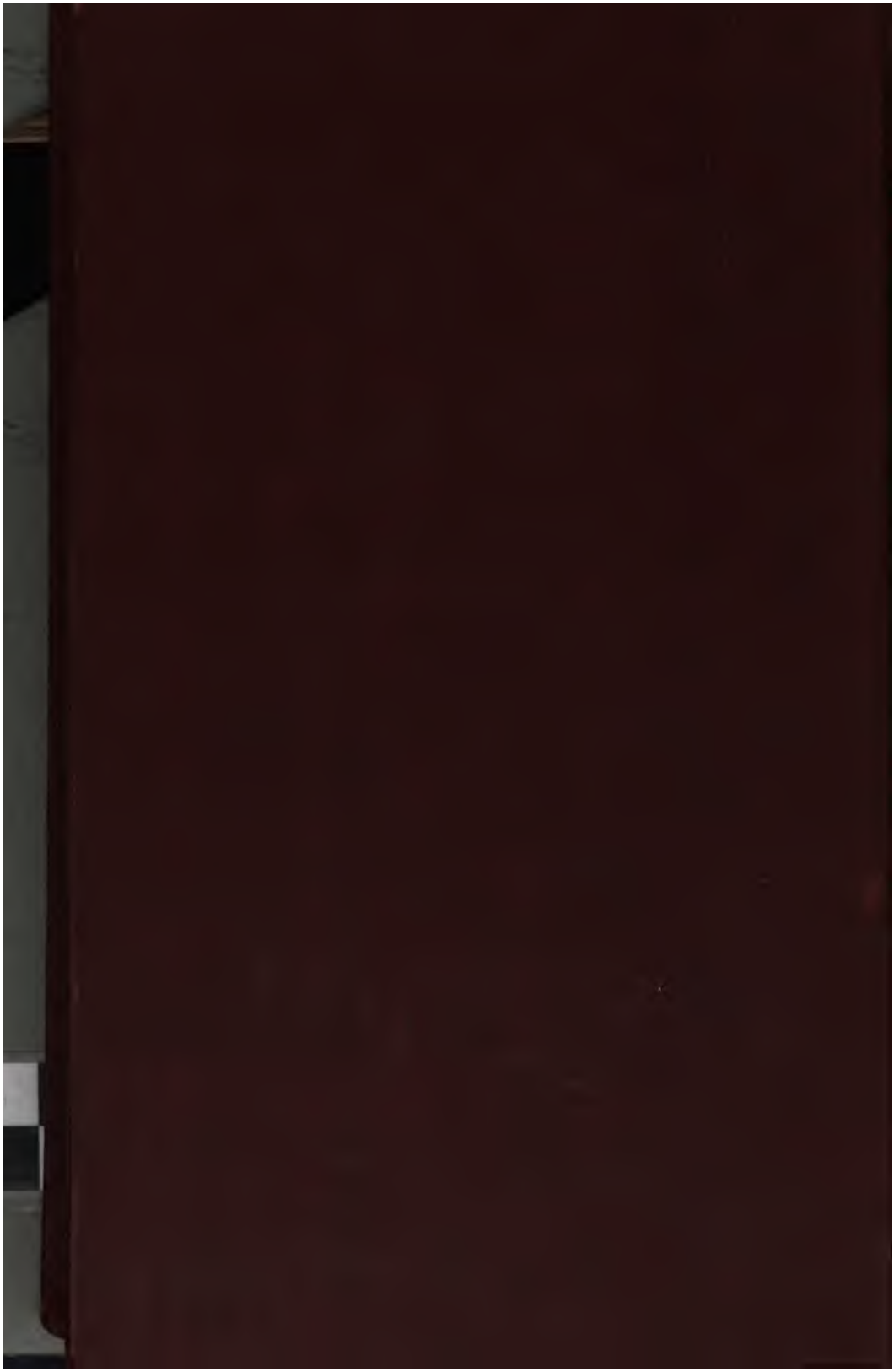
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